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Longest-serving monarch in British history dies aged 96

The death of Queen Elizabeth II heralds the reign of her son, King Charles III

Caroline Davies

Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-serving monarch in British history, has died aged 96, drawing to a close the country's second Elizabethan era, and heralding the reign of her son, King Charles III.

The monarch, for whom abdication was never an option, died peacefully at Balmoral yesterday afternoon, two days after undertaking her final public constitutional duty with the appointment of the 15th prime minister of her 70-year reign.

Her death means Charles now becomes King, and the Duchess of Cornwall the Queen Consort.

In a statement last night, the King said: "The death of my beloved mother, Her Majesty the Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family.

"We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished sovereign and a much-loved mother. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world. During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which the Queen was so widely held."

All four of her children had rushed to Balmoral after Buckingham Palace announced in a statement at 12.32pm that she was under medical supervision at Balmoral, saying doctors were "concerned for her health".

Charles was the first to arrive. As the nation waited anxiously for news, the Duke of Cambridge, Duke of York, and Earl and Countess of Wessex flew from RAF Northolt, arriving at Balmoral at about 5pm. The Duke of Sussex travelled separately, arriving after the other members of the family.

At 6.30pm, Buckingham Palace announced: "The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon. The King and the Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow."

The Buckingham Palace flag was lowered to half mast.

Addressing the nation from Downing Street, the prime minister, Liz Truss, who was told of the Queen's death at 4.30pm, spoke of "the passing of the second Elizabethan age." She praised the monarch's "dignity and grace" , and a "life of service stretched beyond most of our living memories". She concluded with the words: "God save the King."

The US president, Joe Biden, was among the world leaders to pay tribute. A statement issued jointly with the first lady, Jill Biden, said: "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was more than a monarch. She defined an era."

In a world of constant change, they added, she had been "a steadying presence and a source of comfort and pride for generations of Britons, including many who have never known their country without her".

The nation now enters a period of official mourning, which begins today and will last 10 days. As is traditional, officials took a notice confirming the Queen's death to the gates of Buckingham Palace. Crowds gathered outside royal residences, many in tears.



▲ *The Queen waits at Balmoral on Tuesday before receiving Liz Truss and inviting her to form a new government* PHOTOGRAPH: PA

She will be accorded a state funeral at Westminster Abbey, expected to be held on Monday 19 September, though that has not yet been confirmed. She is expected in coming days to lie in rest for 24 hours at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, with members of the public able to file past the coffin. The coffin will then be flown to London for her official lying-in-state.

As Queen of the UK and 14 other realms, and head of the 54-nation Commonwealth, Elizabeth II was easily the world's most recognisable head of state during an extraordinarily long reign. Coming to the throne at the age of 25, she successfully steered the monarchy through decades of turbulent change, with her personal popularity providing ballast during the institution's more difficult times.

At her side for most of it, the Duke of Edinburgh remained her "strength and stay" during a marriage that withstood many strains imposed by her unique position.

Despite a family life lived under the often challenging glare of publicity, Elizabeth II remained a calm and steadfast figure, weathering the divorces of three of her children, and the crisis precipitated by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in a car crash in Paris in 1997.

There were undoubted low points, but the mass outpourings of affection on her silver, golden and diamond jubilees testified to the special place she held for millions.

Rarely did she publicly reveal private anguish. Her plea for a fair understanding towards the end of 1992 - her annus horribilis, a year rocked by royal scandal and a row over finances - was unprecedented.

A devout Christian, the Queen's annual Christmas broadcast, which she scripted herself, revealed a woman of unshakable faith.

She was left bereft at the loss of her lifelong companion, Philip, who died in his sleep at the age of 99 in April 2021 during the Covid pandemic. The duke's death came during one of the most turbulent times for the Queen and her family, when the Duke and Duchess of Sussex quit as senior working royals and decamped to the US to seek freedom.

At the same time, the Duke of York was in a storm that also threatened the institution. He faced allegations from Virginia Roberts Giuffre, which he strenuously denied, that he had had sex with her when she was 17 and had been trafficked by the financier Jeffrey Epstein. Giuffre filed a civil suit against the duke seeking unspecified damages at a federal court in New York, which was settled out of court in February 2022, with the duke paying an undisclosed sum.

As age gradually caught up with her, and she had mobility issues, she was seen less often at public events. In April she did not attend the state opening of parliament, instead issuing letters patent, authorising the Prince of Wales and Duke of Cambridge to deputise for her. It was only the third time in her reign that she had missed a state opening, the other two being when she was pregnant in 1959 and 1963.

Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born on 21 April 1926 at her maternal grandparents' home at 17 Bruton Street, in London's Mayfair district, and was not expected to accede to the throne.

But at the age of 10, the abdication of her uncle, Edward VIII, over his love for the American divorcee Wallis Simpson, and her father's rushed coronation as substitute king, changed the path her aristocratic life could have been expected to take.

The image of a queen who kept cereal in plastic boxes and fed toast to her corgis while a gruff Philip breakfasted next to her, listening to a battered old transistor radio, did much to endear. So, too, did the two-bar electric fire she used in 2013 and beyond to heat her palace audience room, and "revelations" that her favourite TV shows included Last of the Summer Wine and The Bill.

She was the most widely travelled of any world head of state. She visited every Commonwealth country bar Cameroon, which joined in 1995, and Rwanda (2009). She visited Canada more than 20 times, Australia 16, New Zealand 10 and Jamaica six.

As many nations today mourn a queen, one family is mourning a mother of four, a grandmother of eight and a great-grandmother of 12.



▲ *Taxi drivers pay tribute on the Mall leading to Buckingham Palace, with a crowd gathered around them* PHOTOGRAPH: GUY BELL/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

The crowds Public react to news with sadness, fear and stoicism

Geneva Abdul
Rajeev Syal

Thousands of people gathered at Buckingham Palace yesterday, with many of them placing bouquets at the wrought iron gates to mourn the death of the Queen.

The atmosphere was sombre and the crowds remarkably quiet, save for occasional bursts of applause and singing of God Save the Queen.

By the time night fell there were hundreds of bunches of flowers and rows of flickering candles as crowds remained outside the royal residence, with many huddled under umbrellas and tearfully consoling one another.

Dozens of police officers lined the gates while mourners draped a huge union flag across the Victoria memorial opposite.

For David Horrocks, born in 1959, the Queen is the only monarch he's ever known. "She has been so strong; she's seen a lot of adversity with what she's seen in the country," he said. "She has proved to be a very strong character, someone to look up to."

Horrocks came to pay respects for his father, a royalist who was in the Royal British Legion and who met the Queen. "I'm hoping that she has helped to build a legacy that will actually remain, but of course, it depends very much on whether Prince Charles is the person to do that. I hope he is. We'll find out."

The feeling of loss was palpable as the crowd continued to grow despite light rain. For many, it was a moment to reflect on the Queen's extraordinarily long tenure, while others spoke wearily of what the loss portends for a new government.

Linda Hlonjwa, visiting from South Africa, was saddened by the news, but noted her country's colonial past that has yet to be reckoned with. "Things are changing at home. We're learning a lot."

But it's not a good moment for Britain, said Hlonjwa. "She just welcomed the new prime minister two days ago, and now she passes away. It's a lot of change, I hope they can just sustain what she started." Maura Ford was making her way through the crowd with bouquet in hand to pay her respects. "The day before she died, she brought in a new prime minister," she said. "And she did not let up. And she kept her vow of being a servant to all the people of Britain and the Commonwealth."

Ford, who is British-American, said it was up to people to help others in this period. "I think that we're going to all have to put some stoic nature in our lives and help out other people as much as we can," she said.

Ed, who did not wish to give his surname, was one of several people placing their bouquets in the gates. "It's not unexpected," he said. "But I remember that when I was growing up, my mum used to stand up every time the Queen was speaking. So I thought she would appreciate this."

As a child in Hong Kong, Ed belonged to a scout group that would swear allegiance to the Queen. "So she was the Queen to us, there was just one."

At Windsor Castle, the flag was slowly lowered to half mast after the Queen's death was announced. A rainbow had emerged over the late monarch's residence minutes earlier.

A crowd began to gather and dozens of people carrying flowers laid them near the castle's King Henry VIII gates. While some people talked about the Queen, others stood quietly. Several were weeping.

Karen Dean, a retired teacher from Hertford, said: "I feel unbelievably sad. I am not a big monarchist at all, but the Queen has been there for all my life. She was dedicated to her duty and she did it so selflessly."

Many who live in the town of Windsor came to pay their respects. Courtney Rudge, who lives in a flat opposite the castle, said she felt as if a family member had died.

"So many people around here work in the castle and we see the royal family pass by," she said. "I feel like she's been a big part of my life."



▲ *In New York, Elizabeth's picture is shown on the giant screen of the Nasdaq building in Times Square* PHOTOGRAPH: LOKMAN VURAL ELIBOL/ANADOLU AGENCY/GETTY



A notice announcing the Queen's death at Balmoral is posted on the railings of Buckingham Palace

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LEVENE/ THE GUARDIAN



The Queen with Prince Charles at the Chelsea flower show in London in 2009. The Prince of Wales had been in line to the throne for 70 years

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY

'Our saddest day': tributes pour in from politicians, public figures and celebrities

Lisa O'Carroll and Dan Milmo

The nation is grieving with "profound sadness" for the passing of "the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility" sustained the United Kingdom for more than 70 years, said Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury, as tributes poured in following the death of the Queen at 96.

Liz Truss – who met the Queen only on Tuesday when she was asked by the monarch to form a government – led the tributes in only her second address outside Downing Street since taking office.

"The death of Her Majesty the Queen is a huge shock to the nation and to the world," she said in a brief and sombre address on the steps of Downing Street which ended with the solemn words: "God save the King".

"Today the crown passes, as it has done for more than a thousand years, to our new monarch, our new head of state, His Majesty King Charles III."

Noting the passing of the second Elizabethan era, she described the Queen as "the rock on which Britain was built", describing Britain as the "great country it is today because of her".

"It's an extraordinary achievement to have presided with such dignity and grace for 70 years. Her life of service stretched beyond most of our living memories.

"In return she was loved and admired by the people in the United Kingdom and all around the world.

"Her devotion to duty is an example to us all," she said.

The death of the Queen, who acceded to the throne after the second world war, brings an end to the longest reign of any British monarch, seven years longer than Queen Victoria.

She carried out her formal duties until just days before her death, a reflection of the faith she had in the role of the monarchy in Britain, said Welby. "Through times of war and hardship, through seasons of upheaval and change, and through moments of joy and celebration, we have been sustained by Her Late Majesty's faith in what and who we are called to be," he said.

"As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us to make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society," he added.

News of her sudden ill health emerged at 12.32pm yesterday after Buckingham Palace said she had been put under medical supervision amid concerns for her health.

The Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer, said the nation should treasure her love as well as mourn her loss.

"It is a deep, private loss for the royal family and all our thoughts are with them at this time. The nation shares in their grief.

"We will always treasure Queen Elizabeth II's life of service and devotion to our nation and the Commonwealth; our longest-serving and greatest monarch.

"Above the clashes of politics, she stood not for what the nation fought over but what it agreed upon. In crisis, she reassured us. Reminding us that we are all part of something that stretches back through time. A symbol of the best of us," he said.

The former prime minister Boris Johnson said: "This is our country's saddest day … she seemed so timeless and so wonderful that I am afraid we had come to believe, like children, that she would just go on and on."

Sir John Major described her as a leader who was "selfless and wise, with a wonderful generosity of spirit" who "embodied the heart and soul of our nation". The former Labour prime minister Sir Tony Blair said the nation had lost "not just our monarch but the matriarch of our nation, the figure who more than any other brought our country together, kept us in touch with our better nature, personified everything which makes us proud to be British.

"We will mourn her. We will miss her. But our overwhelming sentiment will be of gratitude, profound, heartfelt and sincere thanks for what she did, what she stood for, for the life she lived and for what she gave us," he added.

Public figures and celebrities joined politicians in their sense of grief.

Stephen Fry, the actor and author, tweeted: "Oh dear. Oh my. Oh heavens. Bless my soul. Oh lor. Heck." And added: "I don't know why I'm sobbing. Silly really. Oh dear."

The Harry Potter author, JK Rowling, said some may find an outpouring of British shock and grief "quaint or odd" but "millions felt affection and respect for the woman who uncomplainingly filled her constitutional role for 70 years."

She added: "Most British people have never known another monarch, so she's been a thread winding through all our lives.

"She did her duty by the country right up until her dying hours, and became an enduring, positive symbol of Britain all over the world. She's earned her rest."

The England men's football team captain, Harry Kane, tweeted: "My thoughts are with the Royal Family at this very difficult time.

"The Queen was an amazing inspiration and will be remembered for her incredible years of service to this country. Rest in peace, Your Majesty."

The Match of the Day presenter Gary Lineker said it was a "terribly sad day", while Frank Bruno, the former UK boxing champion, said the Queen was the "matriarch mother of our nation".

The legendary rocker Ozzy Osbourne said on Instagram: "I mourn with my country the passing of our greatest queen."

> ***'Above the clashes of politics, she stood not for what the nation fought over, but what it agreed upon'***
>
> **Keir Starmer**
> *Labour leader*

King Charles
The longest wait ends for heir to the throne. A new chapter begins

Robert Booth

Prince Charles was with the Queen at Balmoral facing the sad reality the death of his beloved mother would lead to the greatest transition of his life: from heir to king.

And then, yesterday afternoon, it happened: Buckingham Palace announced she had passed away.

Charles, 73, now King Charles III, has been next in line to the throne for seven decades – by a distance the longest wait in the history of the British monarchy. Neither he nor his courtiers have ever wished to speak publicly about the moment it is over.

The prospect of the Queen's death has always been considered a matter of great private sadness. "He never wanted to think about accession because it meant the death of his mother," a former aide said yesterday.

But with the Queen's doctors voicing concern for her health and her other children and grandchildren scrambling to be with her, the role of heir that has defined Charles's life since the age of three, when his mother acceded to the throne in 1952, appeared to be drawing nearer.

A new, inevitably shorter, chapter of Charles's life will begin. Becoming monarch of the UK and 14 Commonwealth realms from Canada to Australia will allow him to answer a question that has followed him for decades: after a lifetime of outspoken interventions in public life, what kind of king will he be?

In the immediate days he faces the twin challenges of personal bereavement and leading the nation in mourning.

"He will be focused on the personal and the family, but for the palaces it



will be a question of [choosing] the right things to say and do that lead the nation in mourning but also establish the first steps of the new reign," said another former aide.

Charles, they added, had a "deep emotional facility" with bereaved people, which they predicted would serve him and the country well in any period of mourning.

Yesterday, the focus of attention was squarely on the family as the Queen's children and grandchildren gathered at Balmoral.

The Duke of Cambridge, who is in line to become the Prince of Wales and first in line to the throne, rushed north from Berkshire, while Kate, Duchess of Cambridge, remained in Windsor to take care of their children, George, Charlotte and Louis, who had their first full day at their new school.

Now his father has become king, the Duke of Cambridge will also take on the responsibility, and multimillion-pound income, of the Duchy of Cornwall estates.

The Queen's second son, the Duke of York (who remains stripped of royal duties over his links to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein), and the Earl and Countess of Wessex were on the same RAF plane as the Duke of Cambridge, which touched down in Aberdeen just before 4pm. They were joined at Balmoral by the Princess Royal, the Duchess of Cornwall, who is in line to become Queen consort, and the Prince of Wales.

The couple have been carrying out engagements in Scotland in recent days and Charles was said to have been making regular morning visits to see his mother as she continued to struggle with her mobility.

A spokesperson for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who are on a visit to the UK from their home in California, were also travelling to Scotland. They had been due to attend the WellChild awards ceremony in London last night. The Press Association news agency later reported that Harry would be travelling alone.

It was only in April 2021 that Charles lost his father, Prince Philip, who died, aged 99, at Windsor Castle. His "dear papa", he said shortly afterwards, "was a very special person".

In June he gave a very personal address to his "mummy" at a celebration of her platinum jubilee outside Buckingham Palace.

"You laugh and cry with us and, most importantly, you have been there for us, for these 70 years," he said before looking forward in hope that they could celebrate one of her horses winning the Derby next summer.

Buckingham Palace, Charles's household based at Clarence House and Kensington Palace, which serves as the court of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and until 2020 the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, have been planning for this change at the top of the British state for several years.

The younger members of the family have increasingly taken on royal duties. William and Kate have stepped into formal roles at the request of the Queen. The Duke of Cambridge last year took on the role of lord high commissioner and opened the general assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Charles will take over a role meant to represent stability in times of change, at a time of great political and social flux. But with decades of active duty as the Prince of Wales behind him he will hope to rise to that task. Not least, despite his age he will represent a different generation to the Queen, becoming the first British monarch to have gone to school. The new king has met scores of foreign leaders, interacted with numerous British governments and established charities that have plugged him into at least some of the concerns of ordinary British people and led him into conflict with others.

He turned his own court into a kind of grand salon for convening the powerful - gathering business leaders, faith leaders and politicians to tackle issues ranging from sustainability to urban renewal.

His views on alternative medicines, architectural style and farming have sometimes led to clashes with other parts of civic society, but he has cast himself as a kind of tribune of the people reflecting, he believes, the views of the quiet majority.

In 2014, one courtier, asked by the Guardian to suggest what kind of king he would be, said: "He will be true to his beliefs in his contributions. Rather than a complete reinvention to become a monarch in the mould of his mother, the strategy will be to try to continue with his heartfelt interventions, albeit checking each for tone and content to ensure it does not damage the monarchy."

Timeline
How the news unfolded

● **12pm** The first sign a major event was happening came when Nadhim Zahawi, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, came into the House of Commons chamber and began briefing Liz Truss, the prime minister, as she sat listening to the Labour leader, Keir Starmer.
● **12.30pm** Buckingham Palace issued a statement declaring that doctors were concerned about the health of the Queen and had recommended the 96-year-old remain under medical supervision.
● **12.35pm** The Speaker of the House of Commons, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, interrupted the speech of the Scottish National party's Westminster leader, Ian Blackford, to tell MPs: "I know I speak on behalf of the entire House when I say that we send our best wishes to Her Majesty the Queen and that she and the royal family are in our thoughts and prayers."
● **12.39pm** The prime minister issued a statement in which she said: "The whole country will be deeply concerned by the news from Buckingham Palace this lunchtime." She added: "My thoughts - and the thoughts of people across our United Kingdom - are with Her Majesty the Queen and her family at this time." Scheduled programming on the BBC was interrupted before the national broadcaster turned to rolling news coverage.
● **1pm** Reports emerged that senior members of the royal family were travelling to Balmoral.
● **4.30pm** Truss was informed by the cabinet secretary, Simon Case, that the Queen had died.
● **5pm** A cortege carrying members of the royal family was seen arriving at Balmoral, including Prince William, Prince Andrew, Prince Edward and his wife, Sophie, Earl of Wessex.
● **6.30pm** Buckingham Palace announced that the Queen had died "peacefully at Balmoral". The news was broken to Britain and the world by media organisations.
● **6.40pm** An official statement announcing the Queen's death was placed outside Buckingham Palace, where crowds had been gathering.
● **7.04pm** Buckingham Palace issued the first statement by King Charles as monarch, in which he expressed his sadness and said: "We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished sovereign and a much-loved mother."
● **7.05pm** Speaking outside Downing Street, Truss hailed the Queen as the "rock on which modern Britain was built" and led tributes. **Ben Quinn**



▲ *Nadhim Zahawi interrupting to brief Liz Truss in the Commons*



▲ *Crowds outside Buckingham Palace yesterday after it was announced that the Queen, Britain's longest reigning monarch, had died*
PHOTOGRAPH: HENRY NICHOLLS/REUTERS

The Queen's emotional hold over us was rooted in her lived experience of Britain's finest hour, writes **Jonathan Freedland**



A mighty bond

The second Elizabethan age is over. A new future begins

We knew the words would be uttered one day, but it was still a shock to hear them. The Queen is dead.

Of course, we knew the moment was coming. When a photograph was released on Tuesday showing the monarch welcoming her newest prime minister – her 15th – at Balmoral, her face looked unfamiliarly gaunt. The Queen was a woman in her 90s and we are all mortal, even those whose blood flowed deepest blue. And yet her the announcement that she died "peacefully" yesterday afternoon will shake this country very deeply, for reasons we may not fully grasp.

Plenty will say that the nation has lost its grandmother, that we are a family bereaved of its matriarch – and that comparison is not so wide of the mark. Not because everyone knew or loved the Queen like a relative, because obviously that is not true. But the comparison holds in this much narrower sense: she was a fixed point in our lives, a figure of continuity when all around was in constant flux. Everything has changed since the day in 1952 when she inherited the throne. That country – of black-and-white television, gentlemen in hats and Lyons Corner Houses – and this one would barely recognise each other. And yet the one thing they have – had – in common was her.

She was woven into the cloth of our lives so completely, we stopped seeing the thread long ago. It was not just the coins, the bank notes and the letter boxes. It was the fact that you could hear a song called Her Majesty from a different lifetime, written by a group that broke up half a century ago, and the majesty they were serenading was the same person who reigned until yesterday.

Longevity plays strange tricks like that. My grandmother was born in 1906 and died nearly 30 years ago, and yet the monarch for most of her adult lifetime was this same queen. Elizabeth was the head of state of this country for more than 70 years.

As with parenting, so with serving as the national figurehead: a big part of the job is simply showing up. Elizabeth understood that very deeply, realising that continuity amid turbulence was the great value a monarchy could add to a democratic system. That was why she never countenanced an abdication, no matter her age or infirmity.

In her view, the 1936 disavowal of the throne by her uncle Edward VIII after a mere 325 days was a trauma that was never to be repeated. The monarch's job was to stay put, a steady centre in a swirl of chaos.

Of course, there was more to it than that. She made scrupulous neutrality appear easy, a simple matter of doing and saying nothing. But, as her son – the new king – demonstrated through his long, long apprenticeship, it's harder than it looks. To locate the neutral ground requires not only a self-restraint that always eluded Charles, but also an intimate familiarity with the terrain. The Queen's diligence with her red boxes was well-known, but those Westminster hands who had dealings with her insisted that she had an unusually canny grasp of politics and diplomacy.

Footage that surfaced a year or so before her death showed her working the room at a G7 reception in 1991. Watching her move from Helmut Kohl to George Bush the elder, gently managing Ted Heath even as he, and several other men talked over her, left little doubt that she was a first-rate operator.

The proof of her achievement was in how little her subjects knew her, or at least her convictions. The precursor of The Crown was



Peter Morgan's West End play, The Audience, imagining her private weekly meetings with prime ministers. Naturally, the dramatist longs for conflict and the strongest clash Morgan generated was between the sovereign and Margaret Thatcher over apartheid South Africa, with Elizabeth siding with the Commonwealth and against her PM in seeking sanctions.

The same episode was recounted in The Crown. It stood out, in part, because it was so rare: over seven decades there were almost no other public clashes between the sovereign and her governments, and vanishingly few intrusions by the monarch into politics. (Even the South Africa incident was based on a 1986 report in the Sunday Times that was sourced to anonymous advisers to the Queen, rather than anything Elizabeth herself ever said out loud.)

The result was that an epoch that witnessed enormous social upheavals, a shift to the demotic and democratic in manners and mores and an end to deference - an age that could have proved disastrous, if not terminal, for a feudal institution such as monarchy - instead saw royalty cement its position. Republicanism was a lost cause in the Elizabethan era, even as the notion of allocating any other role in public life according to genetic bloodline would have been dismissed as an indefensible throwback.

Advocates of an elected head of state struggled to gain traction for the simple reason that the Queen did the job so well. Republicans could only argue that it was a fluke, that although the lottery of heredity had thrown up a winner this one time, there was no guarantee it would do so again. But it was no good. For as long as she was there, the monarchy seemed to make sense: an illogical, irrational kind of sense, but sense all the same.

And what was the core of this appeal? Self-restraint, a conspicuous sense of duty, and an old-fashioned work ethic - manifested most recently in her determination to play a part in her platinum jubilee celebrations, despite what were discreetly referred to as "episodic mobility problems" - were admirable, but they do not explain the emotional hold Elizabeth held over the nation she served so long. The key lies instead in an event that predated her becoming queen, that predated even her adulthood.

For what is the foundational event of modern Britain, the moment that functions as our national creation myth? It is the second world war, and specifically 1940 - when Britain stood alone against fascism. It's been said that that story - Churchill against Hitler - has replaced the Christian gospels as the bedrock narrative of good and evil by which our society orients itself. Every moral predicament, every ideological dispute, is ultimately viewed through it or measured against it.

Mostly that period has passed from memory into history. The last human link with the war, the last person in British public life who played a role in it, was the Queen. She was on the balcony, in uniform, alongside Churchill on VE Day. Her husband fought in the Royal Navy. Watch the Oscar-winning film The King's Speech and you'll see that after George VI delivers his landmark address, girding the nation to be steadfast in the face of the Nazi menace, the teenage Elizabeth is there to embrace him. The Queen connected us to the defining event in our modern national life, the event from which we still draw pride and purpose.

> *An age that could have proved disastrous for the monarchy instead saw royalty cement its position*

▲ *After the death of the Queen 'the one element in our collective life that was consistently, reliably the same has gone'* PHOTOGRAPH: VICTORIA JONES/PA WIRE

That connection did not need spelling out; even the merest nod in its direction exerted enormous power. Recall her TV message to the nation at the start of the Covid pandemic in 2020, just as the first, unfamiliar lockdown began. She counselled that we had endured greater hardships before and come through them. Invoking the definitive wartime anthem, she promised that "We will meet again."

This was a mighty bond and it endured through the entire postwar era, a period which, perhaps, ends only now with her death. She reminded us of our finest hour.

We enter a new future now. There will be a different head on the coin, different words for the national anthem. The one element in our collective life that was consistently, reliably the same - tying the Britain of Vera Lynn and ration books to the Britain of Dua Lipa and Twitter - has gone.

Many will be mourning a woman they once saw visit a school or open a hospital; the sender of a birthday telegram to a parent or grandparent; the incarnation of the crown that their son or daughter swore an oath, and risked their life, to defend. There will be talk of the national values she embodied.

But millions will now be mourning something more intimate and more precious: the loss of someone who was a permanent fixture for their - our - entire lives. Her death will prompt memories of all that has passed these last 70 years, and all those others whom we loved and lost. There is grief contained within grief. Today we mourn a monarch. And in that very act, we also mourn for ourselves.

Balmoral

Well-wishers at beloved royal estate

Severin Carrell
Libby Brooks

Braving the lashing rain outside the gates of Balmoral as the sombre news of the Queen's death was announced were two A&E nurses from Portsmouth.

Samantha Cole and Tina Ferry had driven over from the Scottish coastal town of Peterhead where they were on holiday after hearing the news on the radio. Ferry said: "It's a moment in history; it's like Diana. You will always remember where you were when it happened. I hope she hasn't suffered and she passed away peacefully."

Cole, standing beside her in a bright red coat, said she had always loved the royal family and had met Prince Charles when she lived in New Zealand. She also won tickets in a ballot to stand in Pall Mall in London to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. "When you live abroad, you realise that the Queen and the royal family are loved everywhere. But you also realise how British you are when things happen, such as royal birthday parties and things like that."

The longest-reigning monarch in British history died yesterday afternoon surrounded by her children and grandchildren at the Scottish Highland estate that has been a constant throughout her life: where she spent childhood holidays with her sister, Margaret, where her late husband Philip proposed to her and where she was said by those who knew her best to be at her happiest.

Throughout the day senior members of the royal family made their way to the Royal Deeside estate, in Aberdeenshire, arriving by plane and helicopter through rain and fog: her four children, Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, along with her grandchildren Princes William and Harry, and the Duchess of Cornwall.

During the afternoon, the focus remained on the entrance to Balmoral, where the through road remained open and a handful of well-wishers huddled under umbrellas as heavy downpours soaked the police at the gates, watched by a growing contingent of national and international media.

The estate has been one of the main residences of the British royal family since 1852. The Queen began her traditional annual summer stay there on 21 July this year, but ongoing mobility issues meant she remained on the estate, missing her favourite Highland games, the Braemar Gathering, but reportedly enjoyed watching it from her armchair as the event was livestreamed for the first time.

This week, she stayed at the castle to appoint the new prime minister away from Buckingham Palace for the first time in her reign. She continued to use a walking stick, as could be seen in the images of her greeting Liz Truss on Tuesday, her physical frailty apparent but her smile still welcoming.

Ever since Victoria and Albert transformed Balmoral into their favourite royal retreat, the estate has had totemic significance for the Windsors. It was the stage for Victoria's scandalising friendship with her personal attendant John Brown; it has given a Highland home to both the Queen Mother and now her grandson, Prince Charles, at Birkhall, and Charles has mythologised a famous mountain on the estate with his children's story The Old Man of Lochnagar.

The Queen was known by locals to drive herself around the estate, which reaches deep into the Cairngorm mountains. Reflecting on her deep affinity with Balmoral, she reportedly once explained: "You just hibernate. It is rather nice to hibernate when one leads such a movable life. To be able to sleep in the same bed for six weeks, it is a nice change."

In an interview in 2016, the Queen's granddaughter Princess Eugenie described the appeal: "Walks, picnics, dogs - a lot of dogs, there's always dogs ... It's a lovely base. I think Granny is the most happy there. I think she really, really loves the Highlands."



▲ *A young girl leaves flowers outside the Balmoral estate after the death of the Queen was announced yesterday* PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES



A note for a new PM ...

How the news broke on dark day for the UK

Dan Sabbagh

It was immediately obvious something grave had occurred. Shortly after noon Nadhim Zahawi, the chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, headed urgently into the Commons chamber to pass Liz Truss a note; he lingered to conduct a whispered briefing with the new prime minister as Keir Starmer was addressing the chamber.

Moments later Angela Rayner, Labour's deputy, was also handed a sheet of paper while the opposition leader spoke on. She digested its contents, before looking up in a moment of doubt and concern.

The debate on the energy price cap continued, but suddenly the government's £150bn bailout was no longer the story of the day.

Journalists present were quick to notice. Knowing it had to be something significant to prompt such a flurry of activity, speculation turned quickly to the health of the Queen. The 96-year-old monarch had looked frail when she had invited Truss to form a government at Balmoral two days earlier, with bruising, probably from a cannula, clearly visible on her right hand.

It was not necessary to wait long. Shortly after 12.30, Buckingham Palace released an unusually direct statement. "The Queen's doctors are concerned for Her Majesty's health," it said "and have recommended that she remain under medical supervision." Other details were spare. "The Queen remains comfortable," it said, but pointedly there was nothing more positive on her state of health.

A few minutes later the debate in the Commons was briefly interrupted by Lindsay Hoyle, the Speaker, just as Ian Blackford, the SNP's Westminster leader, was on his feet. By convention, the Commons does not normally debate or even mention the monarch, but precedent was cast aside. Hoyle offered the Queen "our best wishes" in a short statement, before asking the MP to resume.

A flurry of official messages followed, all of which emphasised the gravity of the Queen's condition. Truss said she was "deeply concerned" while

Archie and Lilibet

Sussex children become prince and princess

The death of the Queen means that the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's son, Archie Mountbatten-Windsor, is now technically a prince – a title which his mother, Meghan, had suggested was denied to him because of his race.

His younger sister, Lilibet "Lili" Mountbatten-Windsor, is also entitled to be a princess following the death and the accession of her grandfather, the Prince of Wales, to the throne.

Meghan had spoken during an interview last year with the US broadcaster, Oprah Winfrey, of her shock at being told Archie would not get police protection because he did not have a title, and suggested that the decision was taken because of his mixed race.

The Sussexes indicated in the interview that they had expected their son would be given the title of prince after Charles acceded the throne, but that they had been told that protocols would be changed – in line with Charles's wish for a slimmed down monarchy – so that the child would be excluded from becoming an HRH and prince.

Under protocols established by King George V in 1917, the children and grandchildren of a sovereign have the automatic right to the title HRH and prince or princess.



▲ *The Sussex siblings are now grandchildren to the monarch*

At the time Archie was born, he was the great-grandchild of a sovereign, not a grandchild, and was not in the direct line of descent. But to prevent Archie from becoming a prince, the King would have to issue a Letters Patent amending Archie's right to be a prince and Lili's right to be a princess.

Ben Quinn



◀ *Prince William, Prince Andrew, Prince Edward and the Countess of Wessex arrive at Balmoral*

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY

▲ *A plane carrying Prince Harry, travelling without his wife, Meghan, arrives at the airport in Aberdeen*

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL CAMPBELL/PA WIRE

▼ *The union flag at half mast at Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire yesterday evening*

PHOTOGRAPH: VERONICA JOHANSSON POULTNEY/BAV MEDIA



Starmer was "deeply worried". Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury, tweeted: "May God's presence strengthen and comfort Her Majesty, her family, and those who are caring for her at Balmoral."

At Westminster, it was said that "people with constitutional roles" had been told to prepare for the worst. An aide to one said they were engaged in a string of "emergency calls" over lunchtime as official bodies went over their state of preparedness for what is known as Operation London Bridge, the plans concerning the death of the Queen, starting with 10 days of mourning that culminate in a state funeral.

Behind the scenes royal reporters were being told that "the bridge was not down" - meaning that, however grave the situation, the Queen was still alive.

By now the BBC had abruptly interrupted Bargain Hunt on its flagship channel at around 12.40pm, the screen momentarily turning black before the news presenter Joanna Gosling appeared to read out the palace statement.

The national broadcaster turned to rolling news coverage, with Huw Edwards, already wearing a black tie, taking over later to report on events.

Quickly, the Queen's family began to gather at Balmoral. Prince Charles, her eldest son and heir, was already by the Queen's side as the news broke. He had been staying with his wife, Camilla, at Birkhall, nearby on the Aberdeenshire estate. He had, it was reported, been making regular morning visits to see the Queen over the summer, as her health was uncertain.

Princess Anne, already in Scotland, headed quickly to Balmoral and before long the monarch's other children and grandchildren were on their way. Prince William, along with Prince Andrew and others took a special RAF plane from Northolt in north-west London to Aberdeen to be by the monarch's side, arriving at Balmoral in a convoy just after 5pm.

Prince Harry, who had been due to appear at a charity awards ceremony, pulled out and made his own way to Balmoral, although his wife, Meghan, was not by his side. The Duchess of Cambridge remained in Windsor, picking up her children, George, Charlotte and Louis, on what was their first day back at school - and the first time that all three had gone to school together.

The weather was often inclement, but groups of well-wishers began to gather at Buckingham Palace in London and Balmoral in Scotland as the afternoon turned into early evening.

Joe Biden, the US president, told Truss during an afternoon video meeting on the Ukraine crisis that he and his wife were "keeping the Queen and her family in their thoughts".

For a few hours, in public, it was unclear what was happening. But in private, the worst had come to pass: the Queen had passed away. A 70-year reign had ended after what appears to have been a short, final illness. Truss was told by the cabinet secretary, Simon Case, at 4.30pm, although it would be two hours before the news would be released to the country.

Royal correspondents had been told to expect a warning shortly before a significant announcement - a normal palace practice - and suddenly one came, just before 6.30pm. It was followed by the statement everybody had hoped not to hear.

"The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon," it began. A reign that had begun in the black and white of 1952 had come to a sombre end 70 years later, and the news would reverberate around the world on social media in an instant.

But as it did, the palace emphasised the succession: "The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow."

As the news began to break, the BBC cut away to the flag at Buckingham Palace, hanging already at half-mast. Edwards was clearly preparing himself to make the most emotive announcement of his broadcasting career and looked and sounded close to tears. "A few moments ago, Buckingham Palace announced the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II." The announcement was repeated several times, as if the news was too much to be taken in at a single telling.

The national anthem followed, and then a few moments for those watching the news to reflect.

King Charles III, ascending to the throne in an inevitable moment of family tragedy, released a statement about 20 minutes later. "I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which the Queen was so widely held," he said, the first of many official and personal tributes.

Truss, two days into her stint as the Queen's 15th and final prime minister, came out into Downing Street, looking a little uncertain. She said the Queen was "the rock on which modern Britain was built", and ended, her voice cracking at times, by declaring: "God save the King!"

Starmer, meanwhile, insisted that while the Queen may have been head of state, "in spirit, she stood amongst us".

Crowds, into the thousands, would begin to gather at Buckingham Palace and Balmoral as the day turned into evening.

Meanwhile, the BBC searched for an appropriate moment of symbolism, and found one as it switched coverage to Windsor Castle, its flag at half-mast. Alongside the castle rooftop a rainbow had appeared, and for a moment the camera lingered.

Media

Broadcasters had rehearsed plans over many years

Mark Sweney and Jim Waterson

UK news broadcasters including the BBC and ITV had well-rehearsed their strategies to deliver meticulous coverage of the death of the Queen at the age of 96.

When the Queen's companion husband of 73 years, Prince Philip, died last year in his sleep, media organisations had no opportunity in advance to galvanise coverage with correspondents on location or breaking news of royals converging on airports.

But the Queen's death unfolded differently, allowing broadcasters more time to follow their carefully-laid plans. At just after 12.30pm the BBC's main channel interrupted the daytime show Bargain Hunt to deliver a statement from Buckingham Palace that said doctors were concerned for her health, and it continued with a BBC News special.

It was presented by Huw Edwards, well prepared wearing a dark suit, white shirt and black tie - in line with the corporation's on-air dress code for when a royal family member dies - while his colleague Clive Myrie was wearing a sombre blue tie. Later in the afternoon ITV followed suit, switching its flagship ITV1 channel to a rolling news special from 5pm.

Media sources got wind that the Queen, 96, had died late in the afternoon, with the expectation of official confirmation between 6pm and 7pm.

Official news of the Queen's death was announced by Edwards at 6.30pm on BBC One, breaking into programmes on the BBC's other channels. The broadcaster then played the national anthem, in line with a well-rehearsed plan that has been practised regularly in recent years.

The BBC's news division has been holding regular rehearsals on how to cover this moment, not all of which went to plan. On one occasion, in 2015, a BBC journalist announced on Twitter that the Queen had died after mistaking a training exercise for the real event.

Once again some journalists jumped the gun, with fake announcements widespread on social media. Yalda Hakim, the host of the international news programme Impact on BBC World News, tweeted an apology after originally posting that an announcement had been made that the Queen had died.

The Guido Fawkes blog also mistakenly proclaimed "Her Majesty The Queen Dead at 96" in a tweet which that has now been deleted.

There was particular concern within the BBC to avoid the criticism handed out in 2002 when the newsreader Peter Sissons announced the death of the Queen Mother. He was castigated for wearing a burgundy tie during the broadcast, which certain newspapers decided was not suitably respectful to the royal.

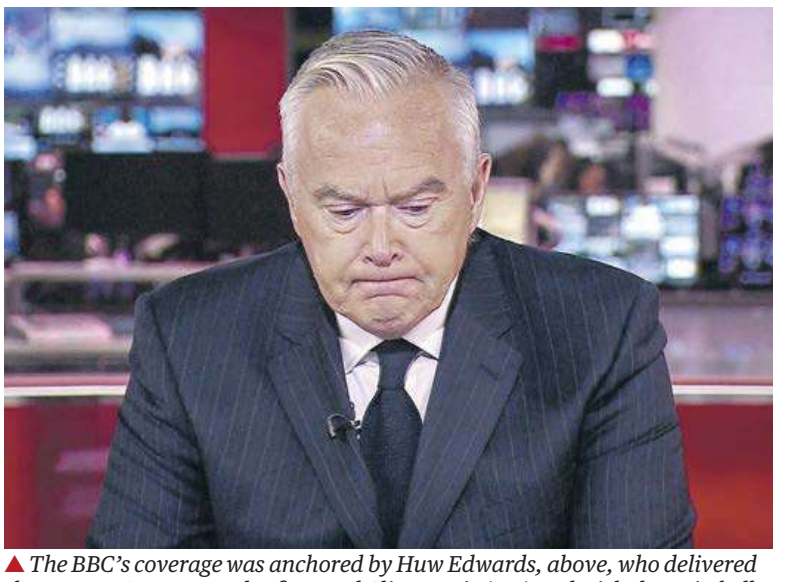
Setting the tone of the coverage is the first big test for the new BBC News boss, Deborah Turness, who officially started her job on Monday.

The Queen's death is expected to disrupt radio and television schedules for several weeks, with many shows cancelled or postponed.

Broadcasters face a delicate balancing act between marking the historic moment and not causing modern audiences to switch off or turn to other forms of media. Last year the BBC received its highest-ever number of complaints about its wall-to-wall coverage of Prince Philip's death.







▲ *The BBC's coverage was anchored by Huw Edwards, above, who delivered the news at 6.30pm. It also featured Clive Myrie (top) and Nicholas Witchell*

‘She marked her country and her century for ever’: – world leaders offer sympathy and tributes



▲ *The Queen with Joe Biden last year. He called her ‘a stateswoman of unmatched dignity and constancy’*
PHOTOGRAPH: MATT DUNHAM/GETTY



Sam Jones

Presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and leaders around the world have paid tribute to the life of Queen Elizabeth II, many of them reflecting on an eight-decade reign that encompassed some of the most turbulent and decisive moments in modern British and world history.

As news of the Queen’s ill health eventually gave way to news of her death, global figures spoke of what she had meant to them and their countries. Among the most frequently invoked words were “duty”, “steadfast” and “constant”. But mention was also made of her sense of humour, and of her life and role as a mother and grandmother as well as a monarch.

‘She was able to keep the value of tradition alive in a society in constant and profound evolution’

Mario Draghi
Prime minister of Italy

The US president, Joe Biden, and the first lady, Jill Biden, said: “Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was more than a monarch. She defined an era.”

In a world of constant change, they added, she had been “a steadying presence and a source of comfort and pride for generations of Britons, including many who have never known their country without her”.

The Bidens also noted that the Queen – “a stateswoman of unmatched dignity and constancy” – had “endured the dangers and deprivations of a world war alongside the British people and rallied them during the devastation of a global pandemic to look to better days ahead”.

Minutes after the Queen’s death was announced, France’s president, Emmanuel Macron, posted a simple picture of her on his Twitter account unaccompanied by any words.

In a subsequent message, he wrote: “Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II embodied the continuity and unity of the British nation for over 70 years. I keep the memory of a friend of France, a queen of hearts who marked her country and her century forever.”

Ireland’s president, Michael D Higgins, described the late monarch as “a remarkable friend of Ireland” as he offered his condolences to the royal family. “Her Majesty served the British people with exceptional dignity,” he said. “Her personal commitment to her role and extraordinary sense of duty were the hallmarks of her period as Queen, which will hold a unique place in British history.” Higgins also paid tribute to Elizabeth for “laying a firm basis for an authentic and ethical understanding between our countries”, and for refusing to “shy away from the shadows of the past” when she visited the country in 2011.

Canada’s prime minister, Justin Trudeau, called the Queen “a constant presence in our lives” and said his compatriots would always “remember and cherish Her Majesty’s wisdom, compassion, and warmth”.

Narendra Modi, India’s prime minister, said she would be remembered as “a stalwart of our times” who had “personified dignity and decency in public life”.

New Zealand’s prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, said flags would fly at half-mast and arrangements would be made for a state memorial service.

“I know that I speak for people across New Zealand in offering our deepest sympathy to members of the royal family at the passing of the Queen,” said Ardern. “To us she was a much admired and respected monarch, to them she was a mother and grandmother.”

The rehabilitation of Camilla
From ‘marriage wrecker’ to Queen Consort

Once vilified as a marriage wrecker, not least by Princess Diana, Queen Camilla, as she will be crowned, will take her place by King Charles III at his coronation.

It had been the Queen’s “sincere wish”, stressed in a message published on the eve of the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne in February, that Charles’s wife would be known on his accession as Queen Consort. It is the same title afforded to Elizabeth, the wife of King George VI, who on his death became Queen Mother.

“When, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes King, I know you will give him and his wife, Camilla, the same support that you have given me,” the Queen wrote. This had long been Charles’s wish, but has only been possible due to an extraordinary switch in public opinion.

Reportedly described by Diana as a “rottweiler” in private, Camilla appeared doomed to be disapproved of by the British public after the bombshell 1995 interview with Martin Bashir, in which Diana complained “there were three of us in this marriage”.

After Diana’s death in 1997, it took two years for Charles and Camilla to make their first public appearance together at her sister’s birthday party. The following year, the Queen signalled her approval by attending a lunch with them. They married on 9 April 2005 in a civil ceremony followed by a religious blessing at St George’s Chapel, with the Queen present.

The event drew a cheering crowd of 20,000 into the streets leading to Windsor Castle – the clearest sign yet that Camilla had won over the public. Prince Harry helped seal her acceptance in 2005, describing her as a “wonderful woman and she’s made our father very, very happy.”
Daniel Boffey



▲ *Camilla, the then Duchess of Cornwall, attending Ascot in 2009*



◀ *Meeting Canada's Justin Trudeau in 2018. He said she had been 'a constant presence in our lives'*

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY

António Guterres, the United Nations secretary-general, said he had been deeply saddened by the Queen's death. "She was a good friend to the UN and a reassuring presence through decades of change," he said. "Her unwavering, lifelong dedication will be long remembered."

He also said the Queen had been "a reassuring presence throughout decades of sweeping change" that had included the decolonisation of Africa and Asia and the evolution of the Commonwealth.

Italy's prime minister, Mario Draghi, expressed his condolences, describing Queen Elizabeth as "the absolute protagonist of world history for the past 70 years" and a woman who had represented the UK and the Commonwealth with fairness, balance, wisdom and respect. "She guaranteed stability in times of crisis and has been able to keep the value of tradition alive in a society in constant and profound evolution," he added.

Pedro Sánchez, the Spanish prime minister, paid tribute to a "figure of global significance, a witness and author of British and European history", while the Dutch prime minister, Mark Rutte, remembered a monarch who had "combined a strong sense of duty and unflinching resolve with a light touch and a sense of humour".

The Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, spoke of his "deep sadness" at the news, saying the UK and the Commonwealth had suffered an "irreparable loss" and offered his thoughts and prayers.

In a letter to King Charles III, the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, expressed "sincere condolences on behalf of the European Union". She added: "Her reign defined the history of your nation and our continent. She symbolised the best of the United Kingdom, its people and its values. She meant so much to so many and, on a personal note, has been an inspiration throughout my life."

Other monarchies offered their sympathies. The Royal House of Norway said it was "deeply saddened at the news'", while the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander said the "steadfast and wise" Queen had dedicated her long life to serving the British people.

"We feel a strong bond with the United Kingdom and its royal family, and we share their sorrow at this time," he added.

King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of the Belgians said: "We will always keep fond memories of this great lady, who throughout her reign, showed dignity, courage and devotion ... The United Kingdom has lost an exceptional monarch who left a deep mark on history."

The Queen's death also elicited tributes from former world leaders. Barack and Michelle Obama celebrated a reign "defined by grace, elegance, and a tireless work ethic, defying the odds and expectations placed on women of her generation".

As night fell across Europe, the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, announced the lights of the Eiffel Tower would be switched off in tribute to the Queen.





▲ *The Queen greets Jacinda Ardern, the New Zealand PM, at Buckingham Palace and (left) meets ex-US president Barack Obama and first lady Michelle at Winfield House*

PHOTOGRAPHS: VICTORIA JONES/ GETTY; CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

Sketch

John Crace



Politics gives way to history as the news from Balmoral reaches House of Commons

It was a moment impossible to forget. A time when icy shards of reality forced their way into the national psyche, and politics had to give way to history. The death of the Queen was always something for a tomorrow. Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow.

The first sign that anything was wrong came early on in the energy debate in the House of Commons. It was about 12.15pm and Keir Starmer was replying to the prime minister's opening remarks. A continuation of their disagreement at prime minister's questions the day before over whether the government should impose a windfall tax to part-pay for the £150bn bailout. A necessary and urgent argument that would affect people for years to come. In an instant, it became a news-in-brief.

Then Nadhim Zahawi entered the Commons and hovered behind the Speaker's chair. He had a few words with Lindsay Hoyle before edging his way along the government frontbench to sit down between Liz Truss and the chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng.

His arrival initially provoked a few raised eyebrows from the opposition benches but nothing more.

Starmer pressed on, oblivious to the distraction, asking why previous Tory governments had done so little on solar, onshore wind and nuclear energy.

Zahawi passed Truss a note and the pair began an intense conversation. Then the prime minister seemed to send the chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster away. As if she had asked him to get more information. The debate continued with Theresa May talking about the benefits of home insulation. She never could pick her moments.

Minutes later, things became more frenetic as Zahawi returned. People had put two and two together. Zahawi was a royal conduit after all. He went back to Truss to update her further before returning to the Speaker's chair. He passed a note down the Labour frontbench to Angela Rayner. She nodded and informed Starmer, who immediately left the chamber for a few minutes.

Truss appeared unsure of what to do. Of all the things she had dreamed of doing in her first few days in office, this wasn't one of them

Meanwhile the press gallery emptied. The rumours had started. The Queen had died. The Queen was dying. For once the rumours turned out to be true.

Truss appeared unsure of what to do. Of all the things she had dreamed of doing in her first few days in office, this wasn't one of them. You could sense her telling herself to get a grip.

The rest of those in the know were just grateful the Queen had lived long enough to accept Boris Johnson's resignation. The last thing the country needed was a narcissistic prime minister who would make a monarch's death all about him. Starmer returned to his place, his expression giving nothing away.

Hoyle clutched a note of his own, anxiously waiting for Buckingham Palace to release official confirmation of the rapid decline in the Queen's health. When it came, he interrupted the SNP's Westminster leader, Ian Blackford, to make a short statement.

"I know I speak on behalf of the entire house," he said, "when I say that we send our best wishes to Her Majesty the Queen, and that she and her family are in our thoughts and prayers at this moment."

After that the Commons all but emptied. All noise and passion spent. And those that did stay, such as the Lib Dem leader, Ed Davey, admitted that their hearts were no longer really in it. Starmer and Truss left together, deep in conversation. This could be one of the less dysfunctional relationships between party leaders.

After an afternoon of time suspended, in which the minutes seemed to loop back on themselves, the waiting was finally over shortly after 6.30pm. The Queen was dead.

Half an hour later, a visibly emotional Liz Truss spoke to the nation from Downing Street. Several times her voice caught on words as she tried to capture the scale of the loss of someone who had reigned for longer than most of us have been alive and had helped to shape the direction of the country.

It was the end of a second Elizabethan era and the beginning of one as yet unknown. As yet undefined. A period of crushing uncertainty. A pillar of our lives had crumbled.

Funeral plans

What to expect over the next 10 days as the nation begins to mourn

From the time of the official announcement yesterday to the lying in state, here is a detailed acouunt of events that will culminate with the committal in Windsor

Caroline Davies

The official announcement from Buckingham Palace will have been preceded by a "call cascade", with the prime minister informed personally by the Queen's private secretary, and the news passed through to the cabinet secretary and privy council office, which coordinates government work on behalf of the monarch. Only then will the "official notification" have been made to the public.

Flags across the royal residences, Whitehall and other government buildings were lowered to half-mast, with the royal family's website changed to a black holding page with a short statement announcing the Queen's death. Government websites also changed to show a black banner.

The prime minister is the first member of government to make a statement.

At Buckingham Palace, the tradition is to fix the framed formal announcement of the death to the railings. Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral will toll their bells at a set time after the monarch's death.

On the first official day of mourning, ceremonial gun salutes are expected at Hyde Park and at Tower Hill, and a national minute's silence is expected to be held.

King Charles would be expected to conduct his first audience with the prime minister. He will also meet the Earl Marshal to officially sign off on the funeral plans, with the state funeral, expected to be held in 10 days' time. Charles will give a broadcast to the country and the Commonwealth later this week.

The Accession Council, which includes senior government figures and privy counsellors, is then expected to meet at St James's Palace for the principal proclamation of the new king, which is read out in public from a balcony at St James's Palace. A further proclamation will be read at the Royal Exchange in the City of London. The new king will have further audiences with the prime minister and cabinet, the leader of the opposition, the archbishop of Canterbury and the dean of Westminster.

Tributes will be paid in parliament. Flags will be at full mast for the Accession Council and remain at full mast for 24 hours, before returning to half-mast until the day after the funeral.

The coffin is then expected to leave from Balmoral to be taken by road to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. There will be proclamations in the devolved nations at Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast and tributes in parliament are likely to continue.

There will be a ceremonial procession from Holyrood along the Royal Mile to St Giles' Cathedral for a service attended by members of the royal family. After that service, St Giles' Cathedral will open to the public for 24 hours for a period of lying at rest – not a lying in state because that will take place in London.

Under London Bridge plans, King Charles is expected to travel to the Palace of Westminster to receive a motion of condolence. He is then due to fly to Edinburgh. In his first act as sovereign, he will attend the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the ceremony of the keys, followed by a service at St Giles' Cathedral. He is expected to then have his first audience with Scotland's first minister, and will also receive a motion of condolence at the Scottish parliament. The coffin is then expected to be flown to London.



▲ *The Queen Mother's body on the way to her lying in state in 2002*

> *On the first day of mourning, gun salutes are expected at Hyde Park and Tower Hill, as well as a minute's silence*

King Charles will visit Northern Ireland, where he is due to receive a message of condolence at Hillsborough Castle and will attend St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast for a service of prayer and reflection on the life of Queen Elizabeth II.

There will be rehearsals for the procession of the late Queen's coffin from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall. The coffin is expected to arrive at Buckingham Palace for a few hours before the big ceremonial planned in London. In the first event preceding the funeral, the Queen's coffin will be borne from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall for the beginning of five days of lying in state. It is expected the coffin will be borne on a gun carriage. On arrival, there will be a short service.

The lying in state is a chance for the public to pay their respects. The coffin will be mounted on a catafalque in Westminster Hall, which will be open to the public for 23 hours a day.

King Charles will travel to Wales to attend a service at Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff, then will visit the Welsh Senedd and receive a motion of condolence. He will have an audience with the Welsh first minister. Commonwealth detachments are then expected to begin arriving in London.

On the eve of the funeral, Charles will welcome foreign royal families attending.

The state funeral will be held at Westminster Abbey. The coffin will be borne from Westminster Hall in a procession to the abbey. There will be two minutes' silence across the nation. After the one-hour service, a large ceremonial procession will accompany the coffin to Hyde Park, where it will be transferred from gun carriage to state hearse and travel to Windsor.

After a procession through Windsor, a committal service will be held at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, during which the coffin will be lowered into the royal vault.







Coronation
Ceremonial hurdles before taking crown

Caroline Davies

Charles, heir to the throne since he was three, became king immediately after the death of his mother, but his official coronation is not likely to take place for several months.

A formal proclamation will be made as soon as is practically possible, at an accession council at St James's Palace.

Members of the privy council, which advises the monarch on matters of state, will be summoned to the meeting. Those traditionally invited include members of the House of Lords, the lord mayor, aldermen and other leading citizens of the City of London, as well as the high commissioners in London of member nations of the Commonwealth.

Tradition also dictates that the first public proclamation of the new monarch will be read in the open air at St James's Palace by the garter king of arms, in the presence of the earl marshal (who is the Duke of Norfolk) and two of the sovereign's serjeants-at-arms.

After the proclamation, Charles will read a declaration and take an oath to preserve the Church of Scotland. He must also swear an oath relating to the Church of England: the accession declaration, to maintain the established Protestant succession, which is normally done at the next state opening of parliament following succession.



▲ *Prince Charles and crown at the state opening of parliament in May*

As the proclamation is read at St James's, similar ceremonies will be carried out in Edinburgh, by the Lord Lyon king of arms, and in Windsor and York, where traditionally the mayor drinks to the new sovereign's health from a golden goblet.

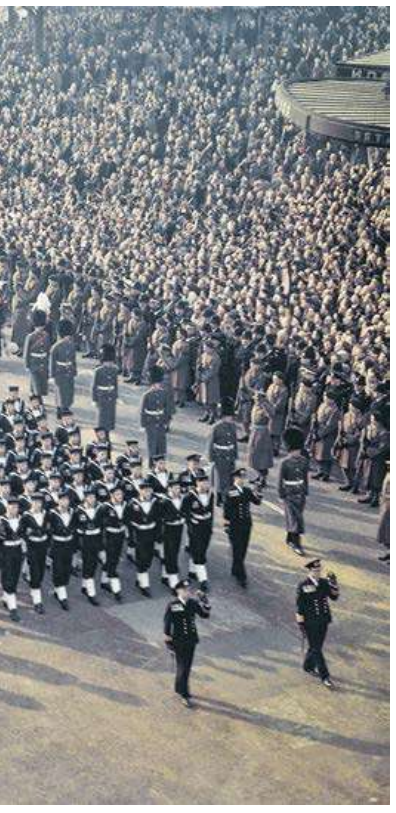
Traditionally, an accession carriage procession will be formed at St James's Palace with a captain's escort of Household Cavalry. It will drive through London's streets, which will be lined with troops, to the three other sites for royal proclamations: the statue of Charles I on the site of the original Charing Cross – once seen as the centre of London, Chancery Lane and the Royal Exchange.

At Temple Bar, the entrance to the City, the lord mayor and his officers will wait for the procession.

Details are yet to be made public, but the ancient ceremony there traditionally sees the earl marshal's cavalcade approach, and an exchange of trumpet calls and formal pronouncements between the City marshal and a pursuivant of arms (a junior officer) who demands entry into the City of London "in order to proclaim His Royal Majesty King Charles III", as Charles will be known henceforth.

After an order in council is read out, the royal procession enters the City and the proclamation of accession is read at the two City sites, with the lord mayor raising his tricorn hat to call for "three cheers for the king" as gun salutes are fired from Hyde Park and the Tower of London.

Charles's coronation will require detailed planning, undertaken by the earl marshal, and so is unlikely to take place for some time. His mother's coronation, which was attended by heads of state from around the world, took place 16 months after her accession.



◀ *The king's funeral procession on its way from the St Mary Magdalene church*

PHOTOGRAPH: BETTMANN/CORBIS



▲ *Guards attend the lying in state of King George VI in the chapel at Windsor Castle*

PHOTOGRAPH: HULTON-DEUTSCH/ CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES

▼ *People in London reading newspapers announcing the king's death in 1952*

PHOTOGRAPH: INTERCONTINENTAL/ AFP/GETTY

Operation Unicorn
The plans for Scotland

Caroline Davies

The logistics of Operation London Bridge, the formal plans drawn up to deal with the death of the head of state, provided for the eventuality that she would die at Balmoral, which was one of her favourite places.

Operation Unicorn, the codename for the plans in Scotland, leaked some time ago and indicated it is likely her coffin will temporarily rest at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, having been taken there by road two days after her death.

Plans are also thought to include a ceremonial procession along the Royal Mile in Edinburgh to St Giles' Cathedral, where a service is expected to be attended by the royal family before a 24-hour period of lying at rest, which would be open to the public.

The coffin is likely to be flown to London, where it will be taken to Buckingham Palace before the ceremonial procession in the capital planned for "D+5" (D-day plus five days) of the 10-day funeral plans.

The Queen spent most of her summers on her highland estate in Aberdeenshire, with members of her family traditionally staying there from July into September and October. Balmoral, like Sandringham, is a private residence of the Queen rather than a royal residence belonging to the crown estate. Years of royal memories were forged there, including family barbecues, where the Duke of Edinburgh did the cooking and the Queen the washing-up.

After Philip and Princess Elizabeth married in 1947, they spent part of their honeymoon at Birkhall – a hunting lodge on the Balmoral estate bought by Prince Albert for Queen Victoria in 1852, and handed down through generations of royals.

Royal symbols

Bank notes, flags and stamps will need to change

Robert Booth

When George VI died in his sleep at Sandringham during the early hours of 6 February 1952, his eldest daughter, Princess Elizabeth, then visiting Kenya with her husband, immediately became Queen Elizabeth II.

"The same simultaneous process will occur at the death of Queen Elizabeth and assumption of the throne by King Charles III," Robert Blackburn, a professor of constitutional law at King's College London, has told parliament.

However, after the Queen's record-breaking reign, unpicking her name, image and iconography from the fabric of national life in the UK and across the Commonwealth will take much longer. These are some of the things that will need to change.

Flags

From the flags that fly outside police stations across the UK to the standard used on a naval ship when a general is onboard, thousands of flags emblazoned with EIIR will need to be replaced.

Military regiments fly "Queen's colours", many of which are studded with a golden embroidered EIIR; the fire service ensign includes her initials, and countries where the Queen remains head of state, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand, have what flag experts call "E flags" - personal flags for the Queen that are used when she is visiting.



Coin designs may be changed more slowly

It is possible that the royal standard - the quartered flag that flies wherever the monarch is in residence - could also change.

The version used by the Queen includes one quarter representing Scotland (a lion rampant), one for Ireland (a harp), and two representing England (three lions passant), but none for Wales. It has been in use since long before Wales had its own national flag, recognised in 1959.

The next monarch could incorporate a Welsh element.

Bank notes and coins

There are 4.5bn sterling bank notes in circulation with the Queen's face on them, worth a combined £80bn. Replacing them with alternatives featuring the head of the new monarch is likely to take at least two years.

When the latest synthetic £50 notes were issued, the process of recall and replacement took the Bank of England 16 months. When the Queen acceded to the throne in 1952, the monarch was not featured on the banknotes. That changed in 1960 when the face of Elizabeth II began to appear on £1 notes in an image created by the designer Robert Austin, which some criticised as too severe.

An image of the new monarch would be agreed with Buckingham Palace. The Queen's head also features on some $20 banknotes in Canada, on coins in New Zealand, and on all coins and notes issued by the Eastern Caribbean central bank, as well as other parts of the Commonwealth.

Coin designs may be changed more slowly if historical precedent is followed: it was common to have different monarchs in your wallet as the changeover in coins happened organically rather than through recall.

National anthem

One of the most straightforward changes, in theory, will be switching the words of the national anthem from "God save our gracious Queen" to "God save our gracious King". But after several generations, many have grown used to hailing the Queen and it may take time before large crowds sing the new version with confidence. The anthem has been in use since 1745 when an early version ran: "God save great George our king, Long live our noble king, God save the king."

Prayers

The Queen was the "defender of the faith and supreme governor" of the Church of England, and there are prayers to her in the Book of Common Prayer, which dates from 1662. One asks God to "replenish her with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that she may alway incline to thy will, and walk in thy way".

These are expected to be amended to become prayers for the new monarch. This must be done by legislation or a royal warrant and was last done after the Queen Mother died. Priests are also able to amend the prayer for temporary use, which means prayers to the monarch that are commonly said in Sunday services and evensong can quickly be adapted to the new defender of the faith.

In services of holy communion contained in the common worship, there is a "collect" for the sovereign that asks God to "rule the heart of thy chosen servant Elizabeth, our Queen and governor, that she may above all things seek thy honour and glory". This can be changed by the General Synod.

Royal arms

The familiar royal arms, which feature a lion and a unicorn rampant against a shield, are used widely on government premises and stationery, and any change would be costly, but it may not be necessary. It would need to change if the new monarch decided to represent Wales on the shield in line with any change to the royal standard.

Royal warrants

From the Angostura bitters company in Trinidad and Tobago to the Sussex farrier Zack Treliving, the Queen's royal warrant currently applies to more than 600 businesses that have a history of supplying the royal household.

Brands enjoying the use of the Queen's arms on their marketing materials include Steinway pianos, Jordans cereals, Gordon's gin and Swarovski jewellers, as well as plumbers, fence makers, sound engineers, hedge trimmers and flour millers.

After the death of the Queen they stand to lose their status, unless they are granted a new warrant by her successor or another member of the royal family who becomes a grantor.

This may not happen quickly. When Prince Philip died, his royal warrant holders were given two years' grace. A new monarch could decide to adjust the criteria to be met to become a royal warrant holder, for example by increasing the emphasis on sustainability.

Post boxes and stamps

Royal Mail postboxes bearing



▶ *One of the Diamond Jubilee stamps issued in 2012, celebrating the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the throne*



Queen Elizabeth's royal cypher, ER, are unlikely to be removed. Some with King George VI's GR cypher remain in use today, 70 years on. The Post Office, however, will change stamps, with a profile image of the new King Charles III being used from now on.

Pledges of allegiance

MPs are not allowed to sit in the House of Commons, speak in debates, vote or receive a salary unless they pledge allegiance to the crown.

Since 1952, the wording has been: "I [name of member] swear by almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God."

MPs and peers will have to swear a new oath to her successor. New British citizens are also asked to swear to "bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the second, her heirs and successors", and the Home Office is likely to change that.

Cubs and scouts promise to "do my duty to the Queen" while new members of the armed forces swear to "be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors".

Commonwealth

The Queen's death is a precarious moment for some of Britain's wider Commonwealth realm, 14 countries of which recognise the monarch as their head of state.

In many cases their constitutions state that the Queen, specifically, is the head of state. In these countries, constitutions will need to be amended to refer to her successor.

In countries such as Jamaica, where there is a strong republican movement, and Belize, these constitutional changes will also require a referendum, according to Commonwealth experts. This is expected to bring about a moment of political peril for the new monarch, who, after Barbados became a republic in 2021, could face the loss of another prominent part of the Caribbean Commonwealth.

Difficult questions are also likely to arise in countries such as Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines over whether the new monarch could lawfully appoint a governor general, should the relevant country's constitution not have been changed to refer to the King, and still continues to refer to the Queen as its head of state.

The Queen's name is also stitched into myriad other laws that will require redrafting, neither an easy nor cheap process, especially for smaller countries that do not employ their own legislative drafters.

Among the constitutional monarchies, Australia, Canada and New Zealand have measures in place so the new monarch automatically becomes head of state.

Speeches In good times and bad, the words that helped soothe the nation



▲ *The Queen's first broadcast to the nation was on BBC's Children's Hour*

From wartime broadcasts to Christmas Day messages, here are excerpts from some of her best-known addresses

Princess Elizabeth's broadcast on BBC Children's Hour, 13 October 1940

Thousands of you in this country have had to leave your homes and be separated from your fathers and mothers. My sister, Margaret Rose, and I feel so much for you as we know from experience what it means to be away from those we love most of all.

We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well; for God will care for us and give us victory and peace. My sister is by my side and we are both going to say goodnight to you. Come on, Margaret. Goodnight, children.

Queen's coronation day speech, 2 June 1953

I have behind me not only the splendid traditions and the annals of more than 1,000 years but the living strength and majesty of the Commonwealth and empire.

I am sure that this, my coronation, is not the symbol of a power and a splendour that are gone but a declaration of our hopes for the future, and for the years I may, by God's grace and mercy, be given to serve you as your Queen.

'Annus horribilis': Queen's speech at the Guildhall to mark the 40th anniversary of her accession, 24 November 1992

1992 is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure. In the words of one of my more sympathetic correspondents, it has turned out to be an "annus horribilis".

I sometimes wonder how future generations will judge the events of this tumultuous year. There can be no doubt, of course, that criticism is good for people and institutions that are part of public life. No institution - City, monarchy, whatever - should expect to be free from the scrutiny of those who give it their loyalty and support, not to mention those who don't.

Address to the nation on the death of Diana, 5 September 1997

[Diana] was an exceptional and gifted human being. In good times and bad, she never lost her capacity to smile and laugh, nor to inspire others with her warmth and kindness. I admired and respected her - for her energy and commitment to others, and especially for her devotion to her two boys. No one who knew Diana will ever forget her.

The Queen's 80th birthday speech at Mansion House, 15 June 2006

As one gets older, birthdays seem to come round quicker; they are therefore less obvious excuses for wider celebration than personal moments to count one's blessings. As Groucho Marx once said: "Anyone can get old - all you have to do is live long enough."

Speech during the Queen's first ever visit to Ireland, at Dublin Castle, 18 May 2011

It is a sad and regrettable reality that through history our islands have experienced more than their fair share of heartache, turbulence and loss. These events have touched us all, many of us personally, and are a painful legacy. We can never forget those who have died or been injured or their families. To all those who have suffered as a consequence of our troubled past I extend my sincere thoughts and deep sympathy. With the benefit of historical hindsight we can all see things which we would wish had been done differently or not at all.

'We will meet again': Queen's pandemic speech, recorded at Windsor Castle, 5 April 2020

I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge. And those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any.

We have seen heart-warming stories of people coming together to help others ... delivering food parcels and medicines, checking on neighbours, or converting businesses to help the relief effort.

For now, I send my thanks and warmest good wishes to you all.



▲ *The Queen making her televised address to the nation during Covid*

The constant monarch

From ingenue to sovereign who rarely put a foot wrong

Portrait by Julian Calder/Camera Press

Her powers of diplomacy were tested at times but, over an extraordinarily long reign, Elizabeth will be remembered as a force for national cohesion during a tumultuous era, writes **Caroline Davies**





The Queen stands among the heather while wearing the robes of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, with her Balmoral estate, in Scotland, providing the beautiful backdrop

Royal timeline
Key moments in a long life

21 April 1926
Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, pictured right with her mother, Elizabeth, Duchess of York, is born at 2.40am at 17 Bruton Street, London. She was third in line to the



throne behind her father, Albert, Duke of York, and Edward, Prince of Wales.

10 December 1936
Edward VIII abdicates to marry Wallis Simpson.

11 December 1936
The Duke of York is proclaimed King George VI. Princess Elizabeth is now heiress presumptive.

22 July 1939
Princess Elizabeth meets Cadet Capt Philip of Greece at Royal Dartmouth naval college.

13 October 1940
As the second world war rages, she makes her first public speech in a broadcast to children of the Commonwealth.

21 April 1942
On her 16th birthday, Elizabeth carries out her first public engagement when she inspects the Grenadier Guards.

21 April 1944
Receives her first corgi, Susan, as an 18th birthday gift.

4 March 1945
Joins the Auxiliary Territorial Service, learning to drive and maintain vehicles.

Elizabeth II's job as the Queen was imposed on her by an ancient constitution that required no qualification other than that she exist.

Having been appointed, and whatever her private thoughts, she performed her role over an extraordinarily long reign in near-faultless manner, leaving scant ammunition for personal attack from the fiercest opponents of hereditary principle.

As Britain hurtled through times of astonishing societal change, she faced many challenges in keeping the monarchy apace – and yet she succeeded in remaining a force for national cohesion. A constant: familiar in brightly coloured coat, brimmed hat and handbag, she glad-handed her way through "walkabouts", garden parties, ship launches, plaque unveilings, tree plantings, building inaugurations – the bread and butter of her engagements diary – with an inscrutable smile in place.

Becoming the Queen at such a young age meant the world knew little of her personality and views before her accession, and she continued to reveal little thereafter. She never uttered a controversial opinion in public, though supporters and critics would differ over whether this was simply because she held none, or whether she was a master of the art of political neutrality.

When caught in a maelstrom, it was most likely she had been thrust there by a lack of precedent in the protocol on which her life was solidly predicated, or wrong-footed by politicians or the actions of the younger royals.

She once said: "Of course, in this existence, the job and the life go together – you can't really divide it up." To some extent the person and position were one and the same. Yet not entirely. She kept much back. Only those closest knew Elizabeth the wife, mother, grandmother and excellent mimic. Though the masses caught occasional glimpses of the private woman, she remained largely an enigma, and will do so until the diaries, which in royal tradition she wrote daily, are made public.

Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born third in line to the throne on 21 April 1926, at 17 Bruton Street, Mayfair, her maternal grandparents' London home, 12 days before the general strike. Three months previously, John Logie Baird had given his first public demonstration of television which would, as high-speed travel and the internet did later, transform the world during her lifetime.

When her uncle David, then Edward VIII, abdicated over his determination to marry the American divorcee Wallis Simpson, destiny cast Elizabeth as heir presumptive at the age of 10. For the obedient, sensible princess, who was being home-schooled for an aristocratic life as a minor royal, it was a traumatic turn of events. She could, her grandmother Lady Strathmore said later, be seen at night "ardently praying for a brother". None came.

Her stammering, introvert father, George VI, died prematurely in 1952, when she was only 25, a young wife and mother of two, who had hoped for many more years between herself and the crown.

In the Elizabeth R documentary for the BBC, marking the 40th anniversary of her accession, she explained: "In a way, I didn't have an apprenticeship. My father died much too young. It was all a very sudden kind of taking on and making the best job you can. It's a question of maturing into something one has got used to doing and accepting that here you are and that is your fate, because I think continuity is very important. It's a job for life."

The 1953 coronation brought thousands to the Mall. In unseasonably cold June drizzle, the dazzling young queen was crowned with her handsome consort, Prince Philip, at her side. The public adoration and global fascination she attracted in those early years was of a level unmatched until Lady Diana Spencer joined the family firm 30 years later. A third of her subjects believed her to have been chosen by God. Deference was the order of the day.

Philip was at her side for 73 years. She was bereft at the loss of her lifelong companion after he died in his sleep at the age of 99 in April 2021. His death, during the Covid pandemic, meant she had to sit alone in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, during the funeral, hugely scaled down because of coronavirus restrictions. The two had spent the last months of his life together, shielding at Windsor because of their vulnerability to the virus due to their advanced years.

Though duty and diligence were her own watchwords, there were occasions when Elizabeth found herself on the back foot despite her best endeavours. Her nadir, perhaps, was 1992, described by the Queen as her "annus horribilis", a year when a scandal-weary public questioned whether misbehaving royals were deserving of their tax-free status and taxpayer-funded lifestyle. The frenzy over the state of the marriages of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York was in full spate.

The Yorks separated, Princess Anne divorced, Andrew Morton published his disquieting Diana: Her True Story, and embarrassing taped calls – one involving Diana, the other between Charles and his then lover, Camilla Parker Bowles – found their way into the tabloids.

When part of Windsor Castle burned down and a disconsolate Queen stood watching in a drab raincoat, there was an outpouring of sympathy. It was swiftly surpassed by outrage when the government suggested taxpayers pick up the repair bill.

The speech she delivered at Guildhall at the end of that year was remarkable and unprecedented in tone. Buffeted and bewildered, she made a candid, open appeal for understanding. "No institution – City, monarchy, whatever – should expect to be free from the scrutiny of those who give it their loyalty, not to mention those who don't." Most people tried to do the best job they could, she added in a thinly veiled personal plea. "I dare say that history will take a slightly more moderate view than that of some contemporary commentators." She was, undoubtedly, wounded.

Within the month, it was announced Charles and Diana would separate, the Queen and Charles would pay tax on their private incomes, the civil list would be axed for the extended royals, and she would open Buckingham Palace to the public to pay for the Windsor repairs. It was a dramatic low point that highlighted the irreversible shift in the relationship between subjects and sovereign. So long as royal lives were irreproachable, some argument for privacy could be made. Once this ceased to be the case, the rules changed. Unwelcome publicity was something she would have to endure.

As best befits a constitutional monarchy, Elizabeth II appeared largely to be a passive queen, proving to be a more than competent mouthpiece for her governments in delivering the often stilted words of politicians



▲ *The christening of Princess Charlotte, the daughter of Prince William, was celebrated in 2015*
PHOTOGRAPH: MARIO TESTINO/GETTY IMAGES

or advisers. As a mother, too, she displayed some passive tendencies, tending to leave her children to their own business.

She was said to immerse herself in her red boxes, containing official government correspondence, rather than face family rows and other emotional dramas.

Nonetheless, her family were the cause of some of the more turbulent times of her reign. When, in 2020, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex stepped back as senior working royals and decamped to the United States to seek freedom and the ability to earn their own money, it was the beginning of another difficult chapter for the monarchy.

Harry and Meghan gave a bombshell interview with Oprah Winfrey in March 2021, while Philip was in hospital, and in which they accused an unnamed member of the royal family of racism towards their son Archie before he was born, and the institution of failing to help the suicidal duchess.

In the aftermath of the interview, the Queen issued a carefully worded statement, saying that "while some recollections may vary", the issues raised would be taken "very seriously" but dealt with privately as a family.

At the same time the Duke of York was weathering a storm that also threatened the institution. Forced to step back from public duties in November 2019 after a "car crash" television interview over his friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, he faced mounting pressure to answer FBI questions over Epstein.

> *She kept much back. Only those closest knew Elizabeth the wife, mother, grandmother and excellent mimic*

Andrew faced allegations from Virginia Roberts Giuffre, which he strenuously denied, that he had had sex with her when she was 17 and had been trafficked by Epstein. As his friend, Ghislaine Maxwell, faced trial in the US over charges she recruited girls for Epstein, Giuffre filed a civil suit against the duke seeking unspecified damages at a federal court in New York.

Andrew paid an undisclosed financial settlement to Giuffre – formally ending a civil case brought against him in the US, according to court documents.

At times the Queen appeared remote and out of touch. "Aberfan: she got that wrong and she knows it," her former private secretary Sir Martin Charteris once said of her six-day delay in visiting the scene of the 1966 south Wales pit disaster in which 116 children and 28 adults died. She had feared her presence would detract from those grieving.

In the aftermath of Diana's death, in 1997, as the country seemed convulsed in mass hysteria and headlines shrieked "Show us you care", she remained at Balmoral, her Scottish estate, comforting the young princes, William and Harry, and convinced that the immediate need for a grandmother was greater than that for a queen.

Despite nervous palace officials sniffing revolution in the air, she averted any potential crisis by later paying tribute "as your Queen and as a grandmother" to Diana in a televised address to the nation and, eventually, breaking protocol to fly the Union flag at half mast over Buckingham Palace.

Public tears were rare, though her eyes welled when the

Continued *on page 18*

10 July 1947
Buckingham Palace announces her engagement to Philip.

20 November 1947
The couple marry at Westminster Abbey. Philip becomes the Duke of Edinburgh.

14 November 1948
Prince Charles is born.

15 August 1950
Princess Anne is born.



6 February 1952
George VI dies and Elizabeth, who is in Kenya at the time, succeeds him.

2 June 1953
Coronation of Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey.

21 October 1957
The Queen visits New York and addresses the UN general assembly.

19 February 1960
Prince Andrew, now the Duke of York, is born.

10 March 1964
Prince Edward is born.

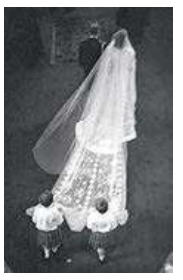
May 1965
The Queen visits West Germany, the first British monarch to do so since the first world war.

20 September 1967
Launches Cunard cruise liner Queen Elizabeth II (the QE2).

21 June 1969
First broadcast of Royal Family, a documentary with unprecedented access to the family's daily life.

20 October 1973
The Queen opens Sydney Opera House in Australia.

27 August 1979
Lord Mountbatten, Prince Philip's uncle, is killed by an IRA bomb in the west of Ireland.



13 June 1981
Shots are fired at the Queen as she attends Trooping the Colour. Marcus Serjeant, 17, an air

Queen Elizabeth II
1926–2022

▼ *Striding through the grounds and countryside surrounding Balmoral Castle in Aberdeenshire was a favourite pastime for the monarch*



Continued *from page 17*

beloved royal yacht Britannia was decommissioned in December 1997, and at a service for 9/11 bombing victims in 2001. Tears were visible too when, just months after the death of her mother, she took her role at the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey in 2002.

Her reluctance to emote in public, a generational as well as genetic trait, was often ascribed to her being unsentimental and aloof. It was a struggle to always get it right, even when trying.

Early on, during her tour of Australia in 1954, officials first noted "the smiling problem", picking up on press reports that she looked quite glum. "I've got the kind of face that, if I'm not smiling I look cross, but I'm not cross," she said in exasperation to one concerned aide, her jaw aching from two solid hours of grinning.

She kept on smiling, or trying to, and waving. And wearing hats, though she thought they made her "look like a sheep". Friends said she "didn't give a fig" what she wore, and had little interest in clothes, putting on whatever her dresser thought suitable for the job in hand: shimmering gown and diamond tiara for the banquet, hat and handbag for the luncheon. She possessed, apparently, the unique skill of being able to position a tiara on her head perfectly without a mirror. Even in her later years, she retained regal glamour.

But these were the accoutrements of office. A countrywoman at heart, she was happiest on horseback or in a tweed skirt, sturdy shoes and headscarf, walking her corgis, wringing wounded pheasants' necks, or tramping the highland moors at Balmoral. She was a different queen at her Scottish estate, with friends describing her "rushing around in tatty clothes, laughing, joking, joining in, singing dirty songs".

Here she and Philip, with whom she had fallen in love at 13 and who she described as her "strength and stay" throughout their marriage, had precious time with their young family away from the pressures of office. Visitors didn't always share her enthusiasm for Balmoral Castle. It was draughty, and a little threadbare and down at heel in parts. But such details fascinated the public: a Queen who stored cereal in Tupperware, used a two-bar electric fire for heating, and kept a Big Mouth Billy Bass, a battery-operated fish, on top of her piano, seemed less remote, despite being woken each morning by bagpipes.

Margaret Thatcher, when prime minister, dreaded her mandatory summer Scottish sojourn, unable to relax during informal barbecues on windswept hillsides – Philip on sausages, Queen on salad, Charles mixing dressing. Even worse were the after-dinner charades, a fact the Queen later acknowledged during a dinner with six of her former prime ministers when she joked about "the party games which some of you have so nobly endured at Balmoral".

Such details served to flesh out a woman about whom, personally, there was a dearth of knowledge. Which is why the Sunday Times's "Thatcher row" story, in 1986, caused such interest.

Headlined "Queen dismayed by uncaring Thatcher", the report claimed she was actually a bit of a leftie and worried about Thatcher's refusal to impose tough sanctions on the apartheid regime in South Africa. Furthermore, Her Majesty was also reported to be worried about race relations, inner-city decay and damage caused to the social fabric of the nation by the miners' strike.

It was explosive, and it was denied. A hurried palace inquiry determined her then press secretary, Michael Shea, had spoken without royal assent to a Sunday Times reporter and there had been "misunderstandings" in questions put and answers given. Neil Kinnock, the opposition leader, refusing to capitalise on political gold, put it down to "loose-lipped courtiers and wide-eared reporters".

Whatever its truth, or otherwise, the brouhaha cast into sharp relief the different perspective she and her governments often shared over the Commonwealth.

With the end of the empire her father had inherited, her personal commitment to the Commonwealth undoubtedly helped to diffuse some of the worst of the post-colonial fallout.

She was the queen of 16 Commonwealth realms, including the UK, and an emollient head of the loose 54-nation Commonwealth association that rose from the empire's ashes. She regarded its success as among her greatest achievements, and pledged herself to it time and again.

As a political ingenue, she grew up alongside Commonwealth leaders such as Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Indira Gandhi of India and Julius Nyerere of Tanzania. Constitutionally, Buckingham Palace did not accept the right of a British government to enforce a view of the Commonwealth on her, and it would have been difficult for them to do so. With leaders earnestly seeking her ear on private woes, she was, in Philip's words, the "Commonwealth psychotherapist".

As a result, she sometimes found herself thrust into difficult situations. When Ian Smith made his unilateral declaration of independence – for white minority rule in southern Rhodesia, as it then was – she agreed with the Labour prime minister Harold Wilson's request that there be no question of her accepting the role of head of state of a rebel regime. But the personal message she sent, entreating Smith to find a compromise, would be misinterpreted in his fight for endorsement, raising questions over whether she should have even written it.

The Commonwealth role she had carved out must often have tested her neutrality. Britain's common market bid fuelled fears of a weaker trading position for Commonwealth countries with Britain. The 1956 Suez crisis caused the majority of Commonwealth nations to rally against Britain in the United Nations. There were other examples, and hers was a difficult role to perform, listening to the woes of leaders at the biennial Commonwealth heads of government meetings she attended.

> *Undoubtedly, she had her favourite prime ministers. Harold Wilson was a huge hit. Edward Heath she found a bit tricky*

Eventually, given her longevity, her experience in world affairs would eclipse that of any of her prime ministers. Details of their weekly audiences were secret, but most must have drawn on her wealth of experience.

Sometimes prime ministers placed her in tricky situations, too. Not least Harold Macmillan. As the postwar Conservative party had no formal rules for electing a leader, she had a royal prerogative and constitutional right to ask whoever she wished to form a Conservative government.

Sir Anthony Eden's resignation in 1957 forced her to choose between Rab Butler or Macmillan. The latter received the most votes. But, in 1963, she found herself unwittingly sucked into an ugly party squabble when an ailing Macmillan, recently resigned as prime minister, convinced her from his hospital bed to choose Alec Douglas-Home as his successor instead of Butler, his deputy.

Feeling obliged to take Macmillan's advice, she made, according to her biographer, the historian Ben Pimlott, "the biggest political misjudgment of her reign". It led the Conservatives to follow Labour's example and establish a selection process so that the Queen would never be placed in such an awkward position again. Personally, aides indicated at the time, Lord Home was much more her cup of tea than Butler would have been, and the two enjoyed chatting about dogs, shooting and Scottish estates.

Undoubtedly, she had her favourite prime ministers. Wilson was a huge hit. Edward Heath she found a bit tricky. And while she and Thatcher could not be said to have enjoyed a warm relationship, it was respectful, and the Queen attended her 2013 ceremonial funeral as a personal tribute, the first funeral of a former prime minister she had attended since Sir Winston Churchill's in 1965.

As the nation's figurehead, it was her job to do the nation's bidding, by and large. And she was often called on to perform gestures of reconciliation. As such, she visited Germany in 1965, signalling the end of its postwar pariah status and, in 2011, became the first British monarch in a century to visit the Republic of Ireland.

On occasion, however, such goodwill visits would be conducted against a highly personal backdrop. With glasnost, perestroika and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the government packed her off to visit Russia in 1994.

She obliged, putting to the back of her mind the grisly end her Romanov relations had met at the hands of the Bolsheviks. Philip, a direct descendant, had even given a DNA sample to prove skeletons dug from a pit in eastern Russia in 1991 were those of the murdered imperial family.

In 2012, she was required to pitch up in Belfast and shake hands with Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness, putting aside the personal tragedy of the 1979 IRA assassination of "Uncle Dickie", Lord Mountbatten, her distant cousin and Philip's uncle.

If it was an uncomfortable encounter, the warm smile and firm handshake did not betray it as such.

When the Scottish independence referendum took place in 2014, the Queen's traditional neutrality came into question. During the

▼ *The Queen and Prince Philip at her beloved Balmoral with the princes Andrew, Edward and Charles and Princess Anne*

PHOTOGRAPH: PICTORIAL PRESS/ALAMY



→

cadet from Folkestone, Kent, is jailed for five years. The shots were blanks.

9 July 1982
Michael Fagan breaks into the Queen's bedroom during the early hours of the morning and sits, talking, on the edge of her bed for 10 minutes.

7 June 1992 The first instalment of Andrew Morton's book, Diana: Her True Story, appears in the Sunday Times, revealing that Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles had continued their affair during his marriage, and that Diana had tried to kill herself and had bulimia.

20 November 1992
Windsor Castle is partly destroyed by fire.

24 November 1992
The Queen gives a speech at Guildhall. In it, she refers to recent events as part of an "annus horribilis".

31 August 1997
Diana dies in a car crash in Paris. The Queen stays in seclusion for several days, and is heavily criticised in the press for her silence. Then, on the eve of Diana's funeral, she meets mourners outside Buckingham Palace and gives a televised address paying tribute to Diana. "She was an exceptional and gifted human being," she said.

9 February 2002
Elizabeth's sister, Princess Margaret, right, dies.

30 March 2002
The Queen Mother dies.

22 December 2007
Elizabeth II surpasses Victoria to become the UK's oldest reigning monarch.

14 October 2010
The Queen cancels a Christmas party



referendum campaign, she was overheard telling a member of the public that she hoped voters would think carefully about the future. And after the prime minister, David Cameron, phoned her to say Scotland had voted no, he was caught on camera saying the Queen had "purred down the line", suggesting she was pleased with the result.

For his part, Cameron later expressed regret and said he would apologise to the Queen after breaching the convention that the prime minister never speaks about his conversations with the monarch.

Royal tours tested her powers of diplomacy in different ways. Possessed of a relatively unsophisticated palate - she enjoyed dining on lamb, roast beef, mutton, grouse or salmon, preceded by one or two stiff martinis, and accompanied by Malvern mineral water, not wine - she baulked not one jot when served sea slug at a state banquet in China.

It was the sort of thing she would have later joked about, in private, to friends and family. Those close to her attested to a keen sense of humour and eye for the absurd.

She once described to Noël Coward, the playwright, the solemn moment during Charles's 1969 investiture as Prince of Wales, when she placed the coronet on top of his head. Both she and Charles, she said, "were struggling not to giggle because at the dress rehearsal the crown was too big and extinguished him like a candle-snuffer".

She was quite unflappable. When Michael Fagan managed to break into her Buckingham Palace bedroom while she slept in 1982, she calmly called the palace switchboard twice to alert security, which took some time coming. Later, according to Pimlott, she said of the unwelcome encounter to a friend: "He just talked the usual sort of bilge that people talk to me on walkabout. I can handle that."

Her sense of comic timing was evident in the 1992 documentary Elizabeth R. Speaking to an aide about the Polish president Lech Walęsa's state visit to Windsor, she remarked: "He knows only two English words [pause] ... They are quite interesting words."

These were the sort of titbits she would share with her mother, until her death in 2002. Coming, as it did, just eight weeks after the passing of her sister, Princess Margaret, it cast a shadow over her golden jubilee celebrations. The two queens were close and enjoyed a supportive relationship.

The Queen's annual Christmas broadcast, which she wrote herself, revealed a woman of unshakable faith. She took very seriously her position as head of the Church of England, even if it did require her deftly to sidestep Charles's civil marriage to Parker Bowles by absenting herself from the register office part of the ceremony.

And, if she required validation that she had performed her duties well, she would have found it in the mass outpourings of affection demonstrated on her silver, golden and diamond jubilees, amply testifying to the special place she managed to hold in the nation's heart.

She was, she said, humbled by this. But she always insisted she could never have done it alone.

During her 80th birthday celebrations, at a lunch for those born on the same day as her, she appeared emotional as she spoke of the support she had received over the years. "I doubt whether any of us would say the last 80 years has been plain sailing. But we can give thanks for our health and happiness, the support we receive from our families and friends, some wonderful memories and the excitement each new day brings."

Her 90th, she declared on a walkabout in Windsor to mark the occasion, was "a lovely day". At Windsor's Guildhall, she met other nonagenarians, telling them: "You were all born in a lovely vintage year."

She wore her years lightly, despite being forced to take a brief time out from official visits in late 2021 when doctors advised her to rest. Her feelings on her age were, perhaps, best summed up when she politely declined the Oldie of the Year award aged 95. Her private office wrote: "Her Majesty believes you are as old as you feel, as such the Queen does not believe she meets the relevant criteria to be able to accept, and hopes you will find a more worthy recipient."



▲ *On her 80th birthday, the Queen praised the support she had received*



◀ *The Queen invites Liz Truss to become prime minister and form a government on Tuesday*

PHOTOGRAPH: JANE BARLOW/REUTERS

Last days A marked decline after years of robust health

Daniel Boffey
Chief reporter

The Queen had smiled broadly but appeared frail, gripping a cane in her left hand, as she greeted Liz Truss, the 15th prime minister of her 70-year reign, in Balmoral Castle's drawing room on Tuesday.

An official photograph of the historic moment had also born witness to an ominous dark purple bruise across the top of the 96-year-old monarch's right hand. Whether the result of a fall or perhaps the removal of a cannula, the palace was not commenting, and it had prompted public concern.

The fact that she was accepting Boris Johnson's resignation and the "kissing of hands" of the new prime minister in the Queen's Scottish retreat rather than Buckingham Palace or Windsor Castle was already a break from tradition. Then a virtual meeting of the privy council to allow for the swearing in of new cabinet ministers was postponed.

By yesterday morning, the assessment from Sir Huw Thomas, the head of the medical household and physician to the Queen, was grave. "Following further evaluation this morning, the Queen's doctors are concerned for Her Majesty's health and have recommended she remain under medical supervision," the palace said. "The Queen remains comfortable and at Balmoral."

The Queen, unlike her father - a heavy smoker who died of lung cancer at the age of 56 - had enjoyed robust health for much of her life, continuing to ride horses into her 96th year, even when against doctors' advice.

While fond of a gin and Dubonnet, her drinking was moderate. Prince Philip quit his heavy smoking habit under her orders on their wedding day, and episodes of illness over her long life had been no more numerous or serious than could be expected. There was a bout of measles contracted from a baby Prince Charles in 1949. A wisdom tooth was extracted in July 1982, and in 1993 the monarch reluctantly missed a Commonwealth Day service because of flu.

There was a broken left wrist in 1994 when her horse tripped during a ride on the Sandringham estate in Norfolk, and a knee operation in 2003 and again in 2004. And a case of gastroenteritis put the Queen in hospital in 2013.

It was only in 2016, aged 90, that time finally appeared to be catching up with the country's longest-serving monarch when she was forced to use a lift, rather than take the 26-step royal staircase, to enter parliament for the state opening.

While fully supporting her husband's decision to retire from public life in 2017 at the age of 96, there was never any question of the then 91-year-old handing over the reins to Charles.

Yet, the last two Covid-scarred years saw a notable deterioration in the sovereign's health - particularly since the death of Philip on 9 April 2021. In October that year, the Queen used a walking stick at a Westminster Abbey service marking the centenary of the Royal British Legion - the first time she had done so at a major engagement.

A week later the palace cancelled a visit to Northern Ireland. The Queen was in "good spirits" but had "reluctantly accepted medical advice" to rest for a few days, the palace said. In fact, she had been secretly admitted to hospital for "preliminary investigations". It was her first overnight stay in hospital since her bout of gastroenteritis eight years earlier.

A slew of further cancellations followed. In February 2022, at her first major public event since October, the Queen celebrated her platinum jubilee, meeting charity workers at Sandringham House and cutting a jubilee cake covered in thick icing. "I think I might just put the knife in it," she joked. "Someone else can do the rest."

She had appeared in good health, if a little stiff. But a few days later there was the first acknowledgement from the Queen herself of her physical condition. Meeting the incoming defence services secretary, Maj Gen Eldon Millar, at Windsor Castle, she was asked how she was. Holding a walking stick, the Queen pointed to her left leg or foot and responded: "Well as you can see I can't move."

A few days later, on 20 February, she tested positive for Covid. She had mild cold-like symptoms but the virus left her "very tired and exhausted". She pulled out of the Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey in March, and did not attend the Maundy Thursday service. But she rallied to honour her late husband.

The Queen is understood to have moved up to Scotland in July, as is a summer tradition, but it was announced that the welcome by the military at Balmoral would be done in private for her "comfort".

The intention had been to travel to London for the change of prime ministers - but two weeks ago those plans changed. It was to be in Balmoral, her favourite royal residence, where the Queen carried out her final constitutional duty - before retiring to rest.

at Buckingham Palace after deciding it would be inappropriate amid the economic crisis.

17-20 May 2011
The Queen visits Ireland. She is the first British monarch to do so since its independence in 1921. She expresses sympathy to those who suffered during hundreds of years of conflict between the two neighbours.

27 July 2012
The Queen opens the London Olympics. In her first acting role, a film shows her leaving Buckingham Palace with James Bond, played by Daniel Craig, and seeming to parachute into the stadium in Stratford.

9 September 2015
She becomes Britain's longest reigning monarch.

2 August 2017
Aged 96, Prince Philip retires from official duties as Queen's consort.

20 November 2019
The Queen in effect suspends Prince Andrew by giving him permission to "step back from public duties" after public reaction to his friendship with the convicted child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

19 March 2020
She and Prince Philip move to Windsor Castle as Covid hits. Public engagements are cancelled and a strict sanitary protocol nicknamed HMS Bubble is followed.

5 April 2020
About 24 million viewers watch the Queen give a televised address as lockdown is enforced. She praises key workers and asks people to "take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return".



9 April 2021
Prince Philip dies "peacefully" at the age of 99 at Windsor Castle. The Queen, who was at his bedside, describes her husband's death as leaving "a huge void" in her life.



▼ *Keir Starmer responds to Liz Truss's energy package – as news of the Queen's death reaches the prime minister*
PHOTOGRAPH: PIXEL8000

PM lays out plan to cap energy bills at £2,500, funded by borrowing

Jessica Elgot
Peter Walker
Alex Lawson

Liz Truss has set out plans to freeze energy bills at an average of £2,500 a year for two years, as part of a package of support for homes and businesses that marks one of the biggest government interventions since the financial crisis.

In her first big act as prime minister, Truss said the government would fund the scheme to reduce the unit cost of energy through increased borrowing.

The initiative is forecast to involve the transfer of £150bn in taxpayer funds to energy suppliers to make up the difference between what they pay for power in the wholesale markets and the capped consumer price.

Whitehall sources said official estimates would not come until a fiscal statement from the chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, expected later this month.

Truss will temporarily remove green levies worth about £150 a year on average from household bills. The scheme will cover England, Scotland and Wales, with something similar expected in Northern Ireland.

Truss also announced schemes she said would increase energy resilience, including a new round of about 100 new oil and gas licences, lifting the moratorium on fracking for shale gas, and accelerating new sources of energy supply, including nuclear, wind and solar.

She said the average household would save £1,000 from October because of the price reduction, on top of the £400 discount announced under Boris Johnson.

In a chaotic, much-interrupted speech to the Commons yesterday morning, Truss said: "This government is moving immediately to introduce a new energy price guarantee that will give people certainty on energy bills; it will curb inflation and boost growth."

For businesses and public sector bodies such as schools and charities, a sixth-month scheme will offer what was termed "equivalent support" to that for households, with a review in three months about how it could be better targeted.

However, Truss stopped short of asking consumers and businesses to cut back on their energy use amid fears over blackouts this winter. Some European governments have enforced energy rationing since Russia began cutting gas supplies.

She also ruled out paying for the scheme by extending a windfall tax on energy on the super-profits of energy suppliers.

Responding for Labour, Keir Starmer condemned the decision to fund the entire bailout through government borrowing rather than raising new taxes. "The prime minister is opposed to windfall taxes," he said. "She wants to leave these vast profits on the table with one clear and obvious consequence: the bill will be picked up by working people."

Starmer also condemned a lack of action on insulating homes, and said: "Doubling down on fossil fuels is a ludicrous answer to a fossil fuel crisis." He said: "I'm afraid fracking and a dash for gas in the North Sea will not cut bills. Nor will they strengthen our energy security. But they will drive a coach and horses through our efforts to fight the looming climate crisis."

The decision to renew fracking will be controversial. The practice was stopped in 2019 after concern about the extent of earth tremors caused.

Truss also announced a review of the government's net zero strategy, under the "altered economic landscape". The review is likely to ring alarm bells for environmental campaigners, but will be chaired by Chris Skidmore, who chairs the net zero group of Conservative MPs and is a key proponent of meeting the targets.

Truss told the Commons that "decades of short-term thinking" had failed to secure energy supplies, something she said had been exposed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

She said: "I'm acting immediately so people and businesses are supported over the next two years, with a new energy price guarantee, and tackling the root cause of issues by boosting domestic energy supply."

Under the scheme, Truss pledged that households that did not pay directly for mains gas and electricity, such as those on heat networks, would receive personal support through a separate fund.

Businesses and other organisations were to be offered a new six-month scheme of "equivalent support". It is expected to be an intervention to subsidise the wholesale price of gas, but limited details were given. Treasury officials expect the intervention would reduce predicted inflation by four to five points, which would cut the cost of servicing debt.

A joint scheme between the Treasury and the Bank of England will offer £40bn of loans to energy suppliers to protect them from soaring wholesale costs. And, in an echo of the Covid support provided for businesses, firms will be able to access capital to insure against price swings.

The plan was intended as a "last resort" to stabilise the market, the government said. Companies applying will have to prove they are in "otherwise sound financial health".

Power to the people?
Key points of the government's plan

Help for consumers
Liz Truss has promised to freeze energy bills at an average of £2,500 a year for the next two years from 1 October under the "energy price guarantee". This will replace the existing Ofgem energy price cap that was due to reach £3,549 from that date. The freeze includes the temporary removal of green levies on household bills, worth about £150. The government said the measure will save the average household about £1,000 a year and is in addition to the £400 of support for all households announced by the former chancellor, Rishi Sunak, in May.

People who are on fixed-term tariffs are likely to receive a matching discount, after negotiations by the government with suppliers.

Households who do not pay directly for mains gas and electricity, such as those using heating oil or on heat networks, will receive personal support through a separate fund.

Help for businesses
Businesses and public sector organisations will have a new six-month scheme offering "equivalent support". The detail is limited but it is expected to be an intervention to subsidise the wholesale price of gas. After the end of the six months, there will be ongoing support for "vulnerable industries", which Truss's spokesperson said was likely to include hospitality, such as pubs.

A review will take place in three months to consider whether the scheme should become more targeted.

New oil, gas and fracking licences
A licensing round will be launched as early as next week and is expected to lead to more than 100 new licences.

The moratorium on UK shale gas production is to be lifted. "This will enable developers to seek planning permission where there is local support, which could get gas flowing in as soon as six months," the government said.

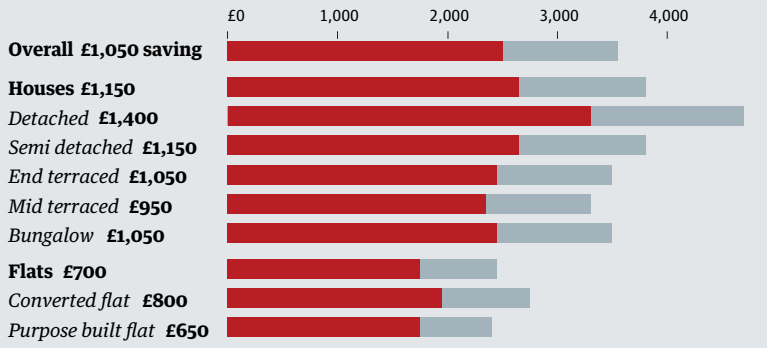
The government has decided to publish the British Geological Survey's report into fracking, which was commissioned by the then business secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, earlier this year. The study suggests "more drilling is required to establish data on shale resources and seismic impacts", in effect reopening the door to an industry that has been on hold since 2019.

The government hopes to "continue progressing" in its mission to generate 24 gigawatts of power from nuclear power stations by 2050. A dedicated body, Great British Nuclear, has been set up to attempt to achieve this aim.

Truss also announced a review of the government's net zero strategy, under the "altered economic landscape". The review is likely to raise alarm bells from environmental campaigners, but will be led by Chris Skidmore, who chairs the Net Zero Support Group of Conservative MPs and is a key proponent of meeting the targets.

How Truss's energy bills bailout will work

Estimated annual expenditure by household, based on 2019 median energy consumption



Source: HM Government

Help for suppliers
The Treasury will work with the Bank of England to "address the extraordinary liquidity requirements faced by energy firms operating in UK wholesale gas and electricity markets".

The energy markets financing scheme, which is meant as a "last resort", is designed to "enable stability to both energy and financial markets, and reduce costs for businesses and consumers". It will open "by the end of October or sooner".

Energy companies have sought to secure their balance sheets amid fears they will have to buy their energy in advance in volatile wholesale markets.

Reforms to the structure and regulation of the energy markets are expected to be undertaken after a review of regulations.

Funding the support
The government will fund the scheme to reduce the unit cost of energy via increased borrowing, likely to exceed £100bn. However, Whitehall sources said estimates for the cost will not come until the chancellor's fiscal statement later this month.

A new windfall tax on energy firms "would discourage the very investment we need to secure home-grown energy supplies", said Truss.

The government expects to be able to reduce the cost of the intervention in three ways: negotiating the long-term gas contracts; negotiating with renewable producers to reduce the prices they charge; and accelerating new sources of energy supply. Costs to the exchequer are also hoped to be reduced via a positive impact on gross domestic product, on tax receipts and household incomes.

The Treasury is declining to outline the costs because of the volatility in the price of gas over the coming year, but sources suggested £150bn was at the upper end of predictions.

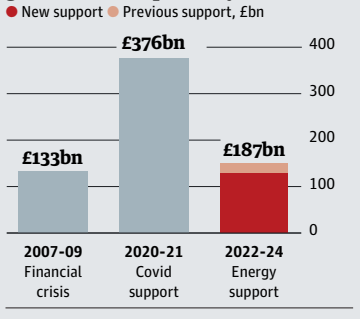
The Treasury will amend the Debt Management Office's remit in the coming weeks, to account for the substantial extra borrowing after the mini-budget.

Reducing wholesale prices
An energy supply taskforce headed by Madelaine McTernan, who led the UK's Covid vaccine taskforce, has begun negotiations with "domestic and international suppliers" to agree contracts that reduce the price they charge for energy.

The taskforce will also negotiate with electricity generators – including wind, solar and nuclear power producers, some of whom have made windfall gains from the rise in wholesale gas prices – to reduce the prices they charge.

Alex Lawson and Jessica Elgot

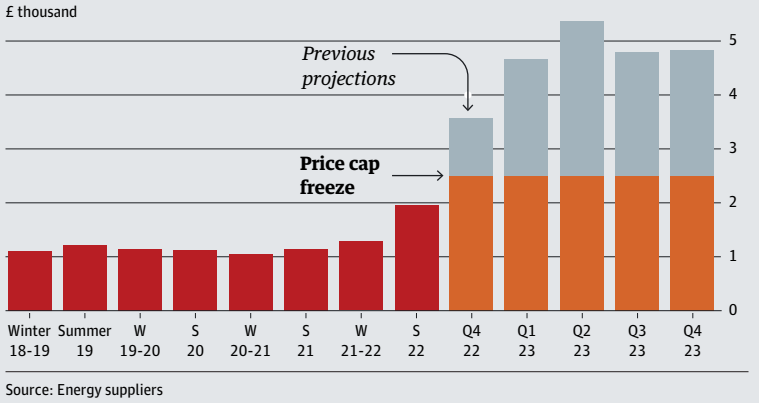
The largest economic interventions by the UK government in past 20 years



Source: National Audit Office, Guardian reporting. Note: the figure for the financial crisis is the cash outlay provided to support UK banks

Cap on energy prices frozen at £2,500 for 2023

Default tariff price cap



Source: Energy suppliers

Analysis
Peter Walker



Sheer weight of political and moral pressure made prime minister's U-turn inevitable

There are two main things to note about Liz Truss's energy costs package. First, there is much detail to come. Also, it is an undeniable paradox that the first move of a prime minister surrounded by former Taxpayers' Alliance staff is a £150bn state effort to fix commercial prices. Much like Boris Johnson would never have wanted to be the prime minister to curtail people's liberties more severely than anyone since wartime, it is fair to say that Truss would rather not begin her tenure in No 10 with what is known as the energy price guarantee.

One of the defining elements of Truss's successful campaign to succeed Johnson was her repeated talk of tax cuts and suspending green levies as the primary way of helping people with soaring bills.

An early Truss campaign interview with the Financial Times even airily dismissed the idea of "handouts". Future campaign messaging was less clear, but still resistant to what was disparagingly referred to as "Gordon Brown economics".

As it has turned out, Truss has ended up more or less with what Brown argued for in early August, a call for a freeze on prices that pre-empted not just the government but even Brown's own Labour party.

What changed was the sheer weight of political and, what you might even term, moral pressure.

Truss was told by an array of experts that failure to take bold action would create a humanitarian disaster, with millions of households cold or hungry or both, businesses collapsing en masse, with the impact on the economy, and especially on public health inequalities, felt for a generation. One effect of the sheer one-sidedness of the argument is that it made Truss's decision to U-turn – whatever her aides might argue, it is a U-turn, even a gradual one – politically easier.

Experts told Truss that failure to act would create a humanitarian disaster, with millions of households cold or hungry or both

In the Commons, Keir Starmer did note the change of stance, but made much more note of Truss's refusal to extend a windfall tax on energy firms' unexpectedly high profits to part finance it.

It is another political paradox that Truss is not only committing about the same as the annual NHS England budget on price controls, she is doing so with little apparent plan to pay for it, beyond borrowing. An extended windfall tax would arguably have only contributed a bit, but its absence is notable, and could become a millstone for the government.

It is not just the financing that remains opaque. The mechanism for the plan is barely sketched out, not least how to help people outside the mainstream energy market, such as those who use heating oil, or apartment-dwellers with communal energy sources that fall outside the price cap. Help for businesses is, thus far, little more than a broad commitment: a six-month scheme will offer "equivalent support".

There is a final political lesson from Truss's statement, and that is that the climate change sceptics have much more sway in government than before, with the restoration of fracking and a commitment to 100 or more new North Sea drilling projects.

Time will tell how much the public side with Starmer, who told MPs that "doubling down on fossil fuels is a ludicrous answer to a fossil fuel crisis". But fracking, at least, has been repeatedly shown to be unpopular with the public.

Business leaders welcome cash to ward off failures in energy sector

Jasper Jolly

The Bank of England will lend UK energy companies as much as £40bn to deal with soaring market prices amid fears of another wave of energy company collapses.

Liz Truss, on her third day as prime minister, said she wanted to make sure energy companies had the cash they needed to buy energy if prices jumped. Reports this week said British Gas owner Centrica was in talks with banks to secure extra cash as Russia continues to choke off Europe's supply of gas.

The bailout fund for energy companies was announced alongside a suspension of the energy price cap, which Truss replaced with an "energy price guarantee" to freeze household energy bills for two years. The government will also offer "equivalent support" for six months for businesses - most of whom have not received any financial aid to address the energy crisis.

Companies that use the Bank of England's energy markets financing scheme will have to sign up to a "wider set of conditions", the Treasury said. During the coronavirus pandemic, some firms were banned from paying dividends after receiving loans from support schemes.

Amid warnings energy markets were facing a "Lehman" moment, when a liquidity crunch precipitated the global banking crisis, the government said the scheme would provide "last resort" financing. The money will essentially guarantee that energy suppliers can pay for any power they commit to buying in the wholesale markets, as well as letting them insure themselves to protect against price rises.

Surging prices have prompted calls for collateral for energy trades, forcing even the largest suppliers to turn to their banks to increase their overdrafts. The governments of Sweden and Finland stepped in with similar measures at the weekend, with the Finnish economy minister saying: "This has had the ingredients for a kind of a Lehman Brothers of the energy industry."

Since the start of the energy crisis more than 30 suppliers have collapsed. That has left energy customers concentrated with bigger firms, whose collapse would probably cost the taxpayer billions of pounds. Some analysts believe that the largest collapse so far, of Bulb, could cost more than £4bn.

Officials are scrambling to draw up details of the scheme, but the government yesterday said it may only be able to reveal a start date by the end of October. It is understood that further details of the scheme will be published next week.

Tim Speed, an energy specialist at the law firm Shakespeare Martineau, said: "A £40bn liquidity fund provides some comfort for energy suppliers, but the support needs to start with immediate effect to stabilise the market. Further supplier casualties will end up costing consumers more."

In an indication of the hurried design of Truss's plan, the government said it would also not be able to provide details until next week of how financial support will be delivered to households or businesses. Nevertheless, business leaders welcomed the scale of the ambition displayed in a package estimated to cost as much as £100bn for the first year alone.

Rain Newtown-Smith, chief economist at the CBI, the UK's largest business lobby group, welcomed "bold and decisive action" that will "limit some of the damaging hardship faced by families this winter and for the wider economy".

"Big spending now needs big plans to recapture sustainable economic growth," she added.

As well as support measures , Truss also promised to rewrite the rules governing how customers buy electricity and gas - throwing the future of regulator Ofgem into doubt. Those policies included:

- A review of the UK's energy regulation that promises to deliver "fundamental reforms to the structure and regulation".
- An energy supply taskforce that will seek to agree long-term contracts for energy supply at steady prices.
- A review of the UK's 2050 net zero target to ensure it is "not placing undue burdens on businesses or consumers".

Martin McTague, national chair of the Federation of Small Businesses, said the promise of support was "a huge relief for millions of small businesses". However, he said Truss offered "not enough information, yet, for them to plan".

30
The number of energy companies that have collapsed since the beginning of the energy crisis

£4bn
The possible cost to the taxpayer, estimated by analysts, of the collapse of energy company Bulb



▶ *Protesters including Tina Louise Rothery, left, and Julie Daniels, third from left, at the site yesterday*
PHOTOGRAPH: PETER BYRNE/PA

'It's a scary situation to live in' People on fracking's frontline fear return of earth tremors

Josh Halliday
North of England correspondent

Chris Holliday, 60, recalls the exact moment an earth tremor of 2.9 magnitude brought an abrupt halt to fracking in the UK. It was 8.30am on August bank holiday Monday in 2019 and Holliday, a retired IT consultant, was standing with his wife, Susan Holliday, in their neat kitchen when all of a sudden the cups and saucers began to shake.

"The crockery and glasses were rattling. The windows were rattling," he said yesterday.

Susan added: "It was frightening. I personally felt seven or eight of these earth tremors and it's quite a scary situation to live in - and to think that could start off all over the country".

The Hollidays' perfectly tended retirement home is barely 300 metres from Britain's fracking frontier at Preston New Road in Lancashire.

Cuadrilla was forced to stop drilling at the site in November 2019 when the government announced a temporary moratorium after repeated earth tremors were detected above the 0.5 magnitude limit set by regulators.

The site, set among acres of farmland on the Lancashire coast, is the only fracking operation in the UK in which horizontal wells have been drilled and hydraulically fractured into shale rock.

Local residents said yesterday they feared they were back on the frontline after Liz Truss, just 48 hours into her premiership, lifted the moratorium, with the aim of getting shale gas flowing in six months.

"It's just dismay," said Chris Holliday as the prime minister rose to her feet in the House of Commons. "The drilling itself is very intrusive. The earth tremors put you on edge the whole time. You can't really relax at all."

It was not just local residents who felt the 2.9 magnitude tremor in August 2019: nearly 200 properties, including some several miles away, reported damage, according to data collected by the British Geological Society.



◀ *Vivienne Westwood, fourth from left, joins protesters at Cuadrilla's Preston New Road site in 2018*
PHOTOGRAPH: OLI SCARFF/AFP/GETTY



'The drilling itself is very intrusive. The tremors put you on edge the whole time. You can't relax at all'

Chris Holliday
Resident

Cuadrilla, which offered people "goodwill payments" of hundreds of pounds for the property damage, welcomed the new prime minister's announcement and pledged to work with the government "to ensure this industry can start generating results as soon as possible".

Preston New Road became the focal point for anti-fracking protesters from across the UK as campaigners, led by a group of women who called themselves the Nanas, frustrated Cuadrilla's operations. Activists blocked roads, chained themselves to fences, and forced the police into making scores of arrests.

Tina Louise Rothery, 60, who was arrested seven times at the site, returned to Preston New Road in the Nanas' signature yellow tabard yesterday as she pledged to do her utmost to stop a new wave of fracking going ahead.

"It won't just be frontline stuff. We will oppose this with legal challenges, planning applications, we will call on Extinction Rebellion and the unions to blockade things. We will pull out all the stops," she said.

"And this time we won't settle for a moratorium, either. We're just going to keep on hammering this until we get the proper ban on fracking."

Rothery said there would be no local support for fracking even if the government promised discounted energy bills for the communities affected.

She said: "It's dangling a precious, precious thing, which is a reduction in your energy bills, in a town like Blackpool that is amongst the most poverty stricken places in the country - that isn't local support, that's desperation."

Rothery, who said she had no history of activism before Cuadrilla announced its plans in 2011, stood for the Green party against George Osborne in his Tatton constituency during the 2015 general election.

Fighting the proposals had "consumed our lives," said Rothery, but she believed that they were taking action for the good of future generations.

"I've watched my grandchildren grow from six to 17 and missed the bits they grew up in," Rothery said. "I've watched people get sick and have PTSD as a result of their treatment at these demonstrations.

"We're here and we're never going away until they [Cuadrilla] do."

Another of the Nanas, Julie Daniels, 62, said she was in "disbelief" when she first saw reports that the fracking ban was being lifted. She said: "Today I feel ill to my stomach. Nobody wants to do this again, but if we don't object, if we don't push back, who is going to stop it?"

Daniels said the Nanas campaign group had kept in touch since fracking was banned but had hoped any action it might have taken in the future could have been proactive, rather than fighting against something.

She said: "We didn't think we'd have to come back. We worked tirelessly for years, we were here outside the site for 1,000 days.

"It went on and on, and we were mostly held together by the solidarity of the community and from right across the UK."

She added: "Liz Truss has no idea what she's talking about. She thinks we're going to be pumping gas within six months - what ignorance."

Analysis
Richard Partington



A belated and uncosted proposal ... but better than the brutal vagaries of the free market

No handouts? Forget the promise of the Tory leadership race; three days into her term as prime minister, Liz Truss has unveiled one of the biggest single packages of financial support for households in recent decades.

She is a politician who sets great store by free-market economics, but not since the 1970s has there been an intervention on this scale in setting the prices consumers pay. Though that wasn't how team Truss branded the plan, instead calling it an "energy price guarantee" - not a fix, or a cap. And not a sniff of a new windfall tax to pay for it.

After weeks of waiting for Truss to tell the public how she would keep the lights on this winter, we are still in the dark about how much it will cost exactly. She did not give any figures in her statement or explain how it would be funded. It will be left to her new chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, to spell out the details in a "fiscal statement" due later this month.

In promising a fixed price for consumers - the government will pay suppliers the difference between that and the wholesale cost - taxpayers will also be exposed to the vagaries of the energy market. As the war in Ukraine continues, and with winter coming, there will be sizable changes in the cost of oil and gas. Having ruled out a beefed-up windfall tax on energy firms, that will add significantly to public borrowing.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) expects every extra £1 spent by households will cost the taxpayer 75p over the next year, which it called "clearly not sustainable" over the long term. "The failure to provide any official sense of a costing was extraordinary, and deeply disappointing," said Paul Johnson, the IFS director.

The national debt is high in many comparable economies. Yet choices about how deficits are used are fiercely political

The surge in borrowing comes amid rampant inflation and a looming recession. The Bank of England is raising interest rates and has switched off its quantitative easing machine - which economists credit with helping to smooth the higher levels of borrowing in the pandemic. The government's budget deficit was already expected to be large this year, while the national debt - above £2tn and close to 100% of GDP - was already at its highest since the 1960s.

Running a bigger deficit is not always problematic, with borrowing able to fund investments to pave the way for higher growth in future. The national debt is also high in many comparable economies. Yet choices about how deficits are used are fiercely political, and not entirely risk-free.

Truss argues her plan will cut headline inflation by about five percentage points. This is because if prices do not rise by as much as anticipated, it will limit the increase in the consumer price index.

In doing so, it would save the government additional interest payments on inflation-linked debt. Before Truss's intervention, the Bank of England had forecast inflation to reach 13%, while some economists expected a peak above 18%. Inflation is still likely to remain above the 10.1% reached in July for some time to come but is unlikely to rise significantly further.

Different choices could have been made. But for struggling households this winter, sticking to a free-market campaign promise would have been significantly worse.



A leading NHS expert said the figures showed what a 'monumental challenge faces the new prime minister and health secretary'

PHOTOGRAPH: SERGIO AZENHA/ ALAMY

Record 6.8 million people waiting for hospital treatment in England

Denis Campbell
Pamela Duncan

Liz Truss has received a stark insight into the dire state of the NHS after new figures showed millions of people in England were facing often record delays to access vital healthcare.

One leading NHS expert said the long waits for care, diagnostic tests and hospital beds showed that Britain's new prime minister "inherits an NHS in critical condition".

The total number of people in England waiting for hospital treatment rose again to a record high of 6.8 million at the end of July – almost one in eight of the population.

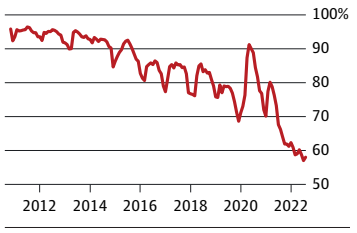
Patients are also facing long waits for accident and emergency care, cancer treatment, such as surgery or chemotherapy, and for an ambulance to arrive after a 999 call.

Of the 6.8 million people on NHS England's "referral to treatment" waiting list, 2,665,004 had been waiting for more than 18 weeks, which is the supposed maximum waiting time for procedures such as a joint replacement, hernia repair or cataract removal.

In addition, 377,689 had been waiting more than a year to start their treatment, almost 22,000 more than a month before, according to the latest monthly performance data published by NHS England.

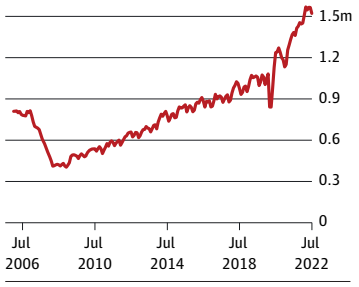
Just three in five A&E attendances are seen within four hours

Percentage of attendances seen within four hours in major A&Es



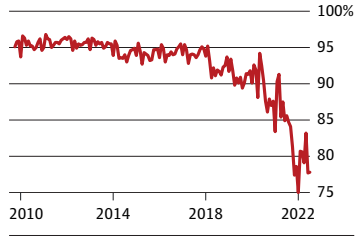
Source: NHS Digital

1.5m people are currently waiting for a diagnostic test



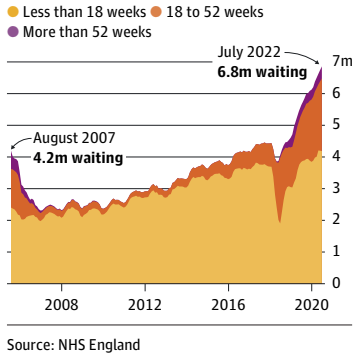
Source: NHS Digital

The proportion of people seeing a consultant within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for cancer hit a record low in 2022



Source: NHS Digital

The number of people on NHS waiting lists in England continues to break records



Source: NHS England

The data showed that ministers and NHS bosses had failed to fulfil their pledge to eradicate two-year waits by the end of July; 2,885 such cases had not been resolved by then, despite major efforts by hospitals to meet the target.

Wes Streeting, the shadow health secretary, accused the Conservatives of breaking their promise.

Nigel Edwards, the chief executive of the Nuffield Trust health thinktank, said: "These figures clearly show what a monumental challenge faces the new prime minister and health secretary in delivering on the NHS."

He said that in August more than 130,000 patients were left waiting for more than four hours in accident and emergency units for a hospital bed.

"These waits are now worse than they were in previous winters. The new prime minister inherits an NHS in critical condition," he said.

Truss has declared the NHS to be one of her "three early priorities" and pledged to "put our health service on a firm footing". Thérèse Coffey, the health secretary, is expected to unveil an "emergency plan" next week.

Although ambulance response times across England in August were better than in July, the service was unable to meet a single one of its targets across its four major callout categories: life-threatening, emergency, urgent and non-urgent.

Response times for suspected stroke or heart attack patients were better than in July, when it took ambulance crews an average of 59 minutes to reach such patients. However, the average 42 minutes and 44 seconds seen in August was still more than double the 18-minute target.

The NHS data also showed that:

- In July, 1,521,711 people were waiting for a diagnostic test, of whom 424,605 had been waiting at least six months for a test that should be done within six weeks.
- Hospitals missed all but one of the targets covering patients' access to cancer care.
- Almost 40% of cancer patients had to wait longer than the two-month maximum to start their treatment after being urgently referred by a GP.
- The proportion of patients seen within four hours at hospital-based accident and emergency units was 58% in August when it should be 95%.

Richard Murray, the chief executive of the King's Fund, said the figures showed that Truss "will now be responsible for a health and care service shaken to its foundations".

Coffey has set out her priorities in the acronym "ABCD": ambulances, backlogs, care, doctors and dentists. However, Murray said she would need to tackle "systemic workforce shortages and sustained funding shortfalls in social care" if the NHS was to get back on track.

At the end of August, 13,200 hospital beds were occupied by patients who were medically fit to leave but could not be safely discharged, mainly because of a lack of social care.

NHS England sought to portray the figures in a more positive light. It highlighted that "the number of patients waiting for tests and checks has fallen for the third month in a row and is at the lowest level since the NHS launched its elective recovery plan".

> *'These figures show the new prime minister inherits an NHS in critical condition'*
>
> **Nigel Edwards**
> *Nuffield Trust*

World on brink of five 'disastrous' climate tipping points – study



▲ *The Bernina mountains in Switzerland, where the hot summer led to record melting of glaciers*
PHOTOGRAPH: GIAN EHRENZELLER/EPA

Damian Carrington
Environment editor

The climate crisis has driven the world to the brink of multiple "disastrous" tipping points, according to a major study.

It shows five dangerous tipping points may already have been passed due to the 1.1C of global heating caused by humanity to date.

These include the collapse of Greenland's ice cap, eventually producing a huge rise in sea level, the collapse of a key current in the north Atlantic, disrupting rain upon which billions of people depend for food, and an abrupt melting of carbon-rich permafrost.

At 1.5C of heating, the minimum rise now expected, four of the five tipping points move from being possible to likely, the analysis said. Also at 1.5C, an additional five tipping points become possible, including changes to vast northern forests and the loss of almost all mountain glaciers.

In total, the researchers found evidence for 16 tipping points, with the final six requiring global heating of at least 2C to be triggered, according to the scientists' estimations.

"The Earth may have left a 'safe' climate state beyond 1C global warming," the researchers concluded, with the whole of human civilisation having developed in temperatures below this level. Passing one tipping point is often likely to help trigger others, producing cascades. But this is still being studied and was not included, meaning the analysis may present the minimum danger.

Prof Johan Rockström, the director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, who was part of the study team, said: "The world is heading towards 2C-3C of global warming. This sets Earth on course to cross multiple dangerous tipping points that will be disastrous for people across the world."

Dr David Armstrong McKay at the University of Exeter, a lead author of the study, said: "It's really worrying. There are grounds for grief, but there are also still grounds for hope.

"The study really underpins why the Paris agreement goal of 1.5C is so important and must be fought for. We're not saying that, because we're probably going to hit some tipping points, everything is lost. Every fraction of a degree that we stop beyond 1.5C reduces the likelihood of hitting more tipping points."

1.5C
The minimum global heating now expected, making it likely four out of five tipping points are reached

Recent research has shown signs of destabilisation in the Amazon rainforest, the loss of which would have "profound" implications for the global climate and biodiversity, as well as the Greenland ice sheet and the Gulf Stream currents that scientists call the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (Amoc).

A recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said the risk of triggering tipping points becomes high with 2C of heating.

The new analysis, published in the journal Science, assessed more than 200 previous studies on past tipping points, climate observations and modelling studies. A tipping point is when a temperature threshold is passed, leading to unstoppable change in a climate system.

The nine global tipping points it identifies also include the collapse of the west Antarctic and two parts of the east Antarctic ice sheets, Amazon dieback and winter sea ice loss in the Arctic. The assessment of the Amazon tipping point did not include the effects of deforestation. "The combination of the warming and the deforestation could bring that a lot sooner," said Armstrong McKay.

A further seven tipping points would have severe regional effects, including the die-off of tropical coral reefs and changes to the west African monsoon. Other potential tipping points still being studied include the loss of ocean oxygen and major shifts in the Indian summer monsoon.

Prof Tim Lenton at the University of Exeter, a co-author of the analysis, said: "Since I first assessed tipping points in 2008, the list has grown and our assessment of the risk they pose has increased dramatically.

"Our new work provides compelling evidence that the world must radically accelerate decarbonising the economy. To achieve that, we need to trigger positive social tipping points."

Drought is declared for all of Wales in spite of recent floods

Steven Morris



▲ *Water levels at Cantref reservoir are low after months of little rainfall in the Brecon Beacons national park*
PHOTOGRAPH: BEN BIRCHALL/PA

An official drought covering the whole of Wales has been declared – the first for 16 years – even though some citizens have been dealing with floods this week and more heavy rain is predicted over the coming days.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) confirmed yesterday that a drought was affecting the whole of the country after just 56.7% of its expected rainfall fell between March and August – the third driest six-month period since records began in 1865.

The south of Wales and parts of mid-Wales were already officially in drought and NRW said that despite persistent rainfall in recent days, the status for other parts of the country was being moved from "prolonged dry weather" to drought. It added that the situation showed the "pressing need to prepare and adapt to the environmental and wider impacts of climate change".

Natalie Hall, NRW's sustainable water manager, said: "After a dry spring and summer, and the impact very little rain over a sustained period has had on our natural environment, we have taken the decision to move the whole of Wales into drought status.

"Rainfall experienced across the country over recent weeks has not been anywhere near enough to replenish rivers, groundwater or reservoirs to normal levels.

"We will need to see sustained or above-average rainfall over the coming weeks and months to see any tangible difference. If we don't see that rainfall, we can expect many areas to remain in drought.

56.7%
Proportion of the expected rainfall that fell in Wales in the six months between March and August

"While essential water supplies remain safe, the public and businesses right across Wales areas are being urged to use water wisely and manage this precious resource at this time."

NRW said water levels in rivers including the Wye, Usk, Dee and Upper Severn remained very low, creating concern about fish and other wildlife. Peatland, wetlands and mature forests were coping well, it added.

Hall continued: "Each drought is different in its extent, severity and impact. As such, it is difficult to predict when we will see the environment, our water supplies and the agricultural sector move into recovery.

"The impact of climate change and the likelihood of more frequent and more severe weather presents an ever-greater challenge for every part of society."

The Met Office has confirmed that this summer has been the eighth warmest for Wales since 1884.

The levels of most reservoirs are lower than usual, though a hosepipe ban is currently only in force in Pembrokeshire and parts of Carmarthenshire.

Public Health Wales said people should continue to drink water as usual and carry on washing, though it suggested people have showers rather than baths, to save water.

Khan's first book is guide to action on environment

Sarah Shaffi

The London mayor, Sadiq Khan, is to publish his first book, described as a "warm and practical guide" to tackling the climate emergency.

Khan became mayor of London in 2016 and since then has brought in a range of environmental measures, including the world's first ultra-low emission zone, hundreds of kilometres of new cycle lanes and plans to rewild Hyde Park.

He was diagnosed with adult-onset asthma when he was 43, while training for the London Marathon. He has said his asthma is down to breathing polluted London air and it was his diagnosis that drove his interest in addressing air pollution and climate change.

Khan's book Breathe, which will be released in 2023, will outline seven ways in which "environmental action gets blown off course", said publisher Hutchinson Heinemann. Khan would also lay out how to get action on climate change "back on track".

Queen Elizabeth II
1926–2022: a life in pictures



▲ *Princess Elizabeth, daughter of the then Duke and Duchess of York, circa 1927* BOB THOMAS/POPPERFOTO/GETTY



▲ *Princess Elizabeth in Buckingham Palace in July 1947 during her engagement to Prince Philip* HULTON/GETTY IMAGES





▲ *The Queen appearing in a sketch having afternoon tea with Paddington Bear, shown as part of the Platinum Party at the Palace television broadcast to mark her jubilee this year* BBC/NEWSPIX INTERNATIONAL



▲ *Celebrating St David's Day 1990 with leeks while resplendent in purple in Pirbright, Surrey*



▲ *The Queen, who learn for an outing at Windsor*



◀ *The Queen, Charles and Kate on the balcony of Buckingham Palace with Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis on 2 June this year*

PHOTOGRAPH: HANNAH MCKAY/ REUTERS

▶ *Prince Charles and the Queen at a Buckingham Palace window on 14 November 1952 -Charles's fourth birthday*

PA WIRE





ed to drive during the war, takes her children, Princess Anne and Prince Charles, in 1957, while members of the public look on HULTON DEUTSCH/CORBIS/GETTY



▲ *With the Duke of Edinburgh on their return to Broadlands in Hampshire - the country estate where they spent their first days as a married couple - before their diamond wedding anniversary in 2011* FIONA HANSON/PA WIRE



▼ *Criminal barristers protesting on pay outside parliament this week*

PHOTOGRAPH: THOMAS KRYCH/ SOPA IMAGES/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Video evidence needs extra funding to work, say lawyers

Haroon Siddique
Legal affairs correspondent

Barristers have accused ministers of ignoring a crisis in the criminal justice system by continuing to roll out pre-recorded video evidence for rape survivors in England and Wales amid a strike by advocates.

The policy, allowing complainants of offences including modern slavery to be cross-examined prior to trial in front of a limited number of people, was extended to five more crown courts on Friday, taking the total to 63. Three-quarters of courts are now covered and all will be by the end of the month.

While barristers support the thinking behind section 28, which also covers witnesses, they say there are insufficient resources and funding for it, particularly in the light of the indefinite walkout over legal aid fees which began on Monday.

The Criminal Bar Association (CBA) said that even before the strike began some advocates refused to do section 28 cases because of the amount of extra work it entails for no additional money.

Kirsty Brimelow, CBA chair, said: "It's introducing processes while having fingers in your ears and your eyes shut as to the practical reality of how justice is being delivered in the criminal courts. You can't keep introducing extra processes with extra work for barristers without proper funding.

"The case itself might be listed in a year's time. The barrister then has to prepare the case again when it comes to trial for no extra money."

Before recording the evidence barristers have to attend a "ground rules" hearing and must submit questions for the complainant. Section 28 interviews take precedent over other matters, even if the advocate is in the middle of another trial, which may have to be suspended as a result.

Mary Aspinall-Miles, who sits on the CBA's rape and serious sexual offences group, said: "Nobody wants to traumatise complainants or defendants any more than they need to be, that's why we support section 28 in principle.

"But the Ministry of Justice and lord chancellor have tried to act as if it's business as usual while ignoring an increasing backlog [in the courts].

Yesterday, the CBA said the new justice secretary, Brandon Lewis, had agreed to meet its leaders after they had been angered by the refusal of his predecessor, Dominic Raab, to face them over the negotiating table.

Criminal barristers are demanding a 25% increase in legal aid fees after a fall in their real earnings of 28% since 2006. They say such a rise is required to prevent the collapse of a criminal justice system that is on its knees because of cuts.

The government has agreed to a 15% uplift but only to new cases, and the CBA says the crown courts' backlog of about 60,000 cases means that the increase could take years to have an effect.

James Oliveira-Agnew, a barrister who helps run vulnerable witness training for other advocates, said of section 28: "It's a good idea but just as with everything that seems to go through criminal justice, it's a good idea poorly thought out. It needs funding, and it needs people to be paid properly for it. Otherwise, it's just not going to work."

The MoJ did not comment on the criticisms but the justice minister, Rachel Maclean, said pre-recorded evidence was a key part of "overhauling the way rape victims are supported through the criminal justice system so that more cases come to court and more rapists are put safely behind bars".

Man arrested in connection with killing of Olivia Pratt-Korbel

Mark Brown
North of England correspondent

A 29-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the killing of nine-year-old Olivia Pratt-Korbel after warrants were executed at three properties, Merseyside police have said.

The man is suspected of assisting an offender and has been taken into custody where he will be questioned by detectives.

The arrest came after police yesterday executed warrants at three properties in the West Derby area of Liverpool. Searches at the properties are continuing.

Olivia was shot by a gunman who forced his way into her family home in the Dovecot area of Liverpool at about 10pm on 22 August. The assailant was chasing a convicted burglar, Joseph Nee, who had burst into the house when Olivia's mother, Cheryl Korbel, opened the door to see what the commotion outside was.

Police renewed their appeal for anyone with information to come forward. People who might have CCTV, dashcam or smart doorbell footage can upload it on to a dedicated portal where it will go straight to the investigation team, detectives said.

Korbel and Olivia's father, John Francis Pratt, released separate messages calling for more information.

Four men arrested on Sunday, including one on suspicion of the murder of Olivia, were released on conditional bail on Wednesday.

Universities urge return of maintenance grants in England

Richard Adams
Education editor

Vice-chancellors have called for maintenance grants to be brought back for undergraduates in England, warning that otherwise there would be a "significant" impact on student health and wellbeing as well as their education.

Steve West, the vice-chancellor of the University of the West of England in Bristol, told the Universities UK annual conference in Leicester that the new government "needs to face up to the cost of living crisis now faced by students and staff. It is hitting them hard."

West, the UUK president, said the maximum maintenance loan available to students in England this year will be £1,000 less than a job paying the national minimum wage - the biggest gap between the two since 2004 - putting higher education further out of reach for those from deprived backgrounds.

The maximum support loan for studying outside London and living away from home is now £9,706 for students from households earning up to £25,000 a year.

While universities "have once again stepped up to support students," West said that emergency aid was not a replacement for long-term backing. "We also need government to take action. In our conversations with new cabinet members and ministers in the coming weeks, we will urge them to provide additional government money for hardship funding and reinstate maintenance grants for those most in need," West said.

West said university leaders also need to make a case for sustainable financing in order to teach their students, as inflation eroded their income from tuition fees.

"Universities are already doing more with less. We have all invested significantly in rising pay and pensions costs, digital innovations to enhance learning and modernised facilities to meet student demand. We have all also invested significantly in support for student mental health and wellbeing to keep pace with demand," West said.

"I, of course, recognise that this government has many spending priorities that are urgent and pressing. But it is vital that we start to move forward on this issue."

The conference heard results of research into attitudes towards UK universities. The survey of more than 2,000 adults found that concerns about universities "were not front of mind," with the public more worried by lack of funding for schools.

Holly Wicks of BritainThinks, which carried out polling and focus groups for the study, said "debt" was the word most associated with higher education by the public.

Cognitive superiority of modern humans to Neanderthals supported by study

Hannah Devlin
Science correspondent

Neanderthals have long been portrayed as our dim-witted, thuggish cousins. Now research has revealed striking differences in the brain development of modern humans and Neanderthals, while not confirming the stereotype.

The study involved inserting a Neanderthal brain gene into mice, ferrets and "mini brain" structures called organoids, grown in the lab from human stem cells. The experiments revealed that the Neanderthal version of the gene was linked to slower creation of neurons in the brain's cortex during development, which scientists said could provide a basis for superior cognitive abilities in modern humans.

"Making more neurons sets the basis for higher cognitive function," said Wieland Huttner, who led the work at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics. "We think this is the first compelling evidence that modern humans were cognitively better than Neanderthals."

Modern humans and Neanderthals split into separate lineages about 400,000 years ago, with our ancestors remaining in Africa and the Neanderthals moving into Europe. About 60,000 years ago, a mass migration of modern humans out of Africa brought the two species face to face once more and they interbred – modern humans of non-African heritage carry 1-4% of Neanderthal DNA. By 30,000 years ago our ancient cousins had vanished as a distinct species, and how we out-competed Neanderthals has remained a mystery.

"One concrete fact is that wherever homo sapiens went they would basically out-compete other species there. It's a bit weird," said Prof Laurent Nguyen, of the University of Liège, who was not involved in the latest research.

"These guys [Neanderthals] were in Europe a long time before us and would have been adapted to their environment including pathogens. The big question is why we would be able to out-compete them."

Some argue our ancestors had an intellectual edge, but until recently there has been no way to scientifically test the hypothesis. This changed in the last decade when scientists successfully sequenced Neanderthal DNA from a fossilised finger found in a Siberian cave.

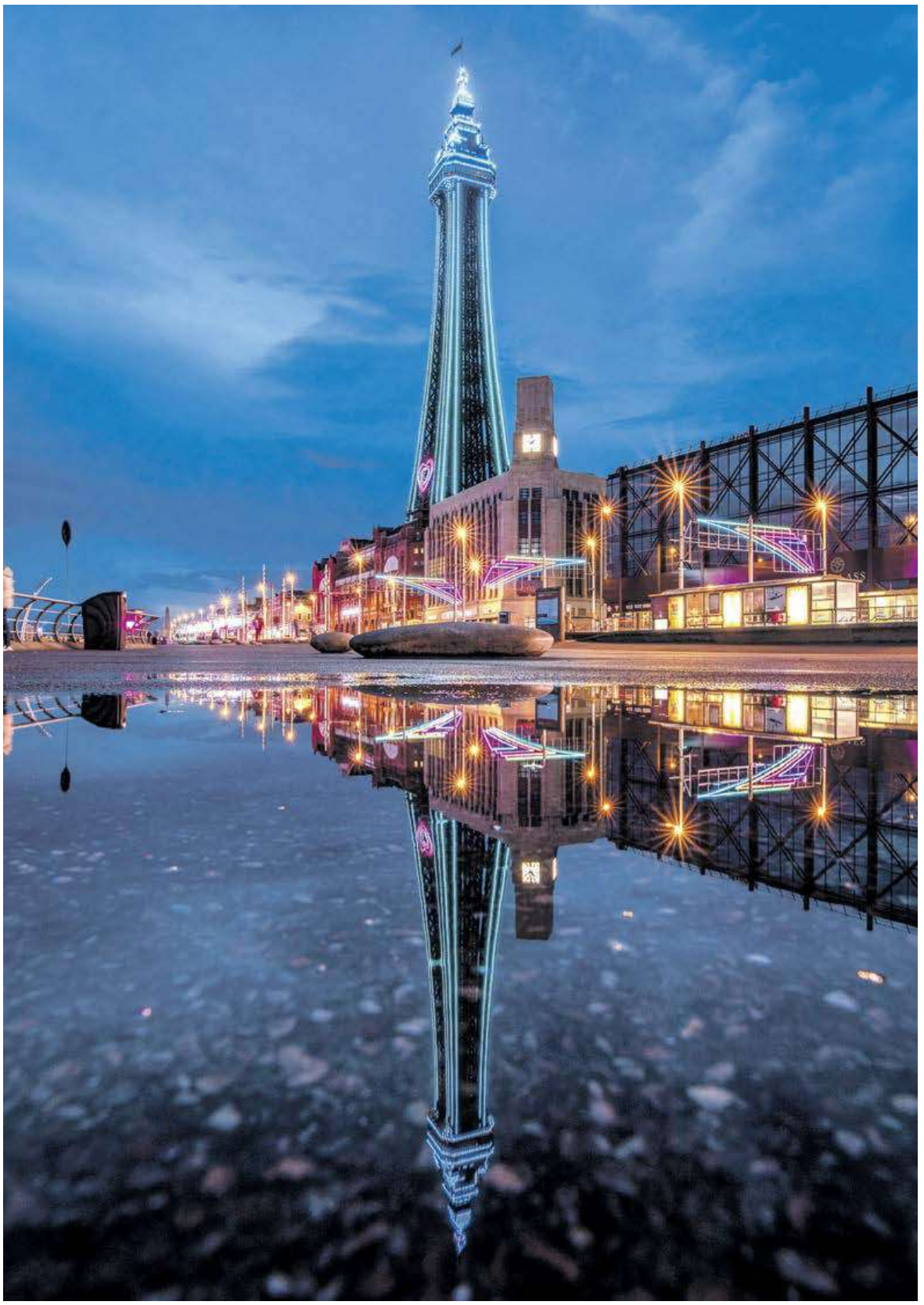
The latest experiments focus on a gene, called TKTL1, involved in neuronal production in the developing brain. The Neanderthal version of the gene differs by one letter from the human version. When inserted into mice, scientists found that the Neanderthal variant led to the production of fewer neurons, particularly in the frontal lobe of the brain, where most cognitive functions reside.

The scientists also tested the influence of the gene in ferrets and blobs of lab-grown tissue, called organoids, that replicate the basic structures of the developing brain.

Anneline Pinson, first author of the study, said: "This shows us that even though we do not know how many neurons the Neanderthal brain had, we can assume that modern humans have more neurons in the frontal lobe of the brain, where [the gene's] activity is highest, than Neanderthals."

1–4%
Proportion of Neanderthal DNA carried by modern humans of non-African heritage

400,000
Number of years ago that modern humans and Neanderthals split into separate lineages



PHOTOGRAPH: GREGG WOLSTENHOLME/ BAV MEDIA

Pools of light Puddles reflect the lights of Blackpool Tower as the town's Golden Mile sparkles with this year's illuminations. More thundery rain is expected across much of the UK today but it is likely to become lighter and less widespread tomorrow.

Rail and postal strikes called off out of respect for the Queen

PA Media

Planned strikes by rail and postal workers have been called off as a result of the Queen's death.

Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union were due to walk out on 15 and 17 September in their long-running dispute over pay, jobs and conditions.

Its general secretary, Mick Lynch, said: "RMT joins the whole nation in paying its respects to Queen Elizabeth. The planned railway strike action on September 15 and 17 is suspended. We express our deepest condolences to her family, friends and the country."

The Transport Salaried Staffs Association (TSSA) also called off planned strikes. A statement said: "Upon the news that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth has died, TSSA union expresses deepest condolences to her family, friends, the country and those affected by her passing. TSSA is cancelling planned industrial action for September and will be respecting the period of public mourning. The union pays respect to Britain's longest-serving monarch." The train drivers' union Aslef also suspended a planned strike.

A Network Rail spokesman said: "We welcome the unions' decision to call off next week's strikes and we join them and the rest of the railway family in sending our condolences to the royal family."

A planned strike by workers at Royal Mail due to take place today was called off. Members of the Communication Workers Union were due to continue a 48-hour walkout in their dispute over pay and conditions.

Its general secretary, Dave Ward, said yesterday: "Following the very sad news of the passing of the Queen and out of respect for her service to the country and her family, the union has decided to call off tomorrow's planned strike action."

'Strike action on 15 and 17 September is suspended'

Mick Lynch
RMT

Britain has faced a wave of industrial action across different sectors as workers demand higher pay and conditions to counter soaring inflation.

The rail dispute is likely to be high on the agenda of the new transport secretary, Anne-Marie Trevelyan.

Her predecessor in the role, Grant Shapps, had suggested that changes could be imposed by legislation if workers did not agree to new deals.

During her leadership campaign, Liz Truss had called for a shake-up of labour laws and said she would raise ballot thresholds to make it harder for strike action to take place. She also backed a cooling-off period so unions could not strike as many times as they liked in a six-month period.

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Rare pine marten spotted in London for the first time in more than 100 years

Patrick Barkham

A pine marten has been seen in London for the first time in more than a century after being pictured on a camera trap installed to monitor hedgehogs.

The endangered mustelid was driven to extinction in England more than 100 years ago and was only sighted again for the first time in the Shropshire hills in 2015.

This particular pine marten was caught on camera in woodland in south-west London, where cameras were installed by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) as part of the London HogWatch project to monitor and conserve the capital's hedgehog population.

"We deploy camera traps across woodlands," said Kate Scott-Gatty, a research assistant for ZSL and London HogWatch. "In this area, these are usually set off by the movement of common species such as foxes and badgers, so you can imagine our surprise at seeing a pine marten - a species usually only glimpsed in Scotland and northern England."

Pine martens are mobile animals but it is not known if the animal captured by the camera had made its way naturally from the nearest known population - in the New Forest, 80 miles away - or if it had been released, possibly as part of an unofficial reintroduction effort.

Research in Northern Ireland has shown that pine martens normally avoid busy urban areas but there is plenty of food available in London, with grey squirrels a particularly easy target. Experts believe it is unlikely to have been targeting the hedgehogs in the woodland, although pine martens have been recorded taking young hedgehogs.

Gamekeepers historically targeted the species because it devours game birds: this is what led to its extinction in England. But now, with a reduction in persecution, pine martens were sighted again in Northumberland in 2018 and animals were reintroduced to the Forest of Dean in 2019, with further reintroductions being planned for Exmoor and Dartmoor.

ZSL said it would continue to monitor the camera traps for signs of the pine marten, which was pictured on 3 July. If further images are captured, individual animals may be able to be identified by the shape of the distinctive pale "bib" on their chests.

Dr Chris Carbone, senior research fellow at ZSL's Institute of Zoology, said: "The return of wildlife to an area can be positive. It might mean that habitat quality is improving or natural food sources are increasing but it's important we understand more. Any species reintroductions should only be carried out by professionals, with the appropriate checks in place - from assessing habitat suitability to screening for illnesses."

The exact location of the sighting is not being disclosed, but Elliot Newton, biodiversity officer at the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, said: "Across other European countries, pine martens are recorded in urban settings.

"The individual caught on our cameras is looking in good health and is a very welcome addition to our local fauna. We will be continuing to monitor for more sightings."



▲ *Pine martens were reintroduced to the Forest of Dean in 2019*







▲ *The pine marten activated a camera trap in south-west London that had been set up to monitor hedgehogs* PHOTOGRAPHS: ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

Stage review

Gags fly in adaptation of Tati comedy

Playtime
Royal & Derngate, Northampton
★★★☆☆

Arifa Akbar

Attempting to adapt Jacques Tati's 1967 masterpiece is courageous, maybe even reckless. Often classed among the greatest ever films, it has a flimsy plot, long shots of moving crowds and minimal dialogue. To add to the challenge there's Tati's own performance as Monsieur Hulot, rendering exquisite moments of physical comedy and mime.

The miracle of Valentina Ceschi and Thomas Eccleshare's production is that it works, at least in the first half. We follow an American tourist around Paris, to an office, expo and restaurant, before returning to the airport. Terry Jones regards Tati's film as a story of "mankind lost in structures of his own contriving". The exhibition, in which state-of-the-art gadgets are advertised, contains great comedy on consumerism.

The cast, fluid in their movements, excel in a mime set to muzak, save for a few lines of dialogue in a babel of languages. They double up as lovers, commuters and lost souls, every one of them entertaining, but Yuyu Rau and Martin Bassindale are especially delightful to watch, while Enoch Lwanga's Hulot has a Chaplinesque naivety.

It is a shame when the second half loses its way. This production could be a storming success if better structured, but it still offers up enough joy to keep us entertained.

Until 17 September

Stage review

Sweet songs of a rogue's redemption

Rehab: The Musical
Playground theatre, London
★★★☆☆

Miriam Gillinson

Opening with a song called Wanker, Rehab sounds like a musical aiming to shock, but it is actually written with a lot of heart. It draws on songwriter Grant Black's experiences and is about a 90s singer, Kid Pop, in rehab after he is papped snorting cocaine. Pop's inevitable story of redemption feels contrived, but the characters he meets, and the lively score that underpins their stories, are fun, nuanced and full of compassion.

Wearing a union jack T-shirt and streaky eyeliner, Jonny Labey's Kid Pop looks like all the 90s pop stars rolled into one. Labey is charming and cocky, with just a hint of vulnerability. There is a particularly clever song, Lucy, in which his sexual fantasies are repeatedly interrupted by the other characters' far stranger and funnier addictions: in the world of rehab, Pop is no longer star of the show.

Phil Sealey gets all the best songs as cross-dresser Phil Newman. While the romance between Pop and former stripper Lucy (Gloria Onitiri) frames the show, it's Newman's story that brings out the best in Black and his co-composer and lyricist Murray Lachlan Young. Newman's songs are impossibly tender (Ordinary Girl) but also absurdly light and funny (The Cheese Song) and hint at greater depths these writers could reach.



▲ *The show introduces us to the stories of the clients at a rehab clinic*

Alongside this is a fairly clunky subplot involving polymath performer Keith Allen, who plays scheming PR man Malcolm Stone in a very silly blond wig.

Stone is ultimately a figure of fun rather than a genuine menace: that's a shame because with the right material, Allen can smoulder darkly with the best of them. Still, there's something tickling about watching him storm about singing Everyone Loves Cocaine. Dated, yes, but cheekily entertaining all the same.

Until 17 September

World



A teenager riding a hoverboard past a destroyed Russian tank in the Chernihiv region this week

PHOTOGRAPH: SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/AFP

'The more losses they have, the better the positions of our defenders will be'

Volodymyr Zelenskiy

Ukraine counteroffensive 'advances 30 miles into Moscow-held territory'

Lorenzo Tondo *Kyiv*
Julian Borger *Washington*

Ukraine has retaken more than 270 sq miles of territory and over 20 villages, a top general has announced, as the country's troops wage a counteroffensive against Russia in the south and the east of the country.

Brig Gen Oleksiy Gromov said at a briefing that Ukrainian armed forces had advanced up to 30 miles into Russian lines and that "the total amount of territory returned to Ukrainian control in the Kharkiv and Pivdennyi Buh directions stands at over 700 sq km [270 sq miles]".

Gromov said Ukrainian troops had advanced up to 2 miles on the Sloviansk front in the east and recaptured a settlement called Ozerne.

This is the first time Kyiv has disclosed details of its recent counteroffensive since last week, so as not to compromise the operation.

The general singled out the role of Turkish-made Bayraktar drones. "Enemy infantry and motorised artillery units unprotected by air defence systems become easy prey for our Bayraktars, the quantity of which is always increasing, thanks to our volunteers," he said.

A top US general, Mark Milley, described the progress of Ukraine's counteroffensive as "steady" and "deliberate", and pointed in particular to the impact of US-supplied high mobility artillery rocket systems (Himars) in supporting Ukraine's advance.

"We are seeing real and measurable gains from Ukraine in the use of these systems," Milley, the chair of the joint chiefs of staff, said. "For example, Ukrainians have struck over 400 targets with the Himars and they've had a devastating effect."

Milley and the US defence secretary, Lloyd Austin, were in Ramstein, Germany, to meet their counterparts from about 50 countries and coordinate military support for Ukraine on the day the US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, announced another $2.8bn worth of arms supplies, both short- and long-term, for Ukraine and neighbouring states.

A US state department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the US package would "bolster the security of Ukraine and 18 of its neighbours, including ... many of our Nato allies as well as other regional security partners".

Blinken made the announcement on a surprise visit to Kyiv. His arrival came after the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, reported "good news" from the war's frontlines.



US secretary of state Antony Blinken on his visit to Kyiv yesterday

In an address on Wednesday evening, Zelenskiy cited "the extremely successful hits in areas where the occupiers are concentrated", and thanked Ukrainian artillery troops for what he said were successful strikes against Moscow's forces in the south.

Also on Wednesday, an official representing the Russian-controlled self-proclaimed republic in Donetsk confirmed that Ukraine had launched a surprise counterattack in the north-east Kharkiv region and "encircled" Balakliia, a town of 27,000 people situated between Kharkiv and Russian-occupied Izium.

The long-awaited counteroffensive comes at a crucial moment in the conflict. After months in which Ukraine's fate seemed sealed, with Moscow cornering Ukraine in the Donbas and threatening to advance towards Odesa, the reconquest of territory by Ukrainian forces seems to have raised the morale of the country's people, who are resigned to a conflict that could last for years.

"Each success of our military in one direction or another changes the general situation along the entire frontline in favour of Ukraine," Zelenskiy said. "The more difficult it is for the occupiers, the more losses they have, the better the positions of our defenders in Donbas will be."

The Ukrainian counteroffensive in the east does not seem to have stopped the Russian bombing of Kharkiv. Yesterday, the regional governor of Kharkiv, Oleh Synehubov, said two people had been killed and five injured in Russian shelling of the city's industrial district.

Heavy fighting was raging yesterday in areas near the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station after Kyiv said it may have to shut down the plant to avoid disaster.

The general staff of Ukraine's armed forces said in its daily update that some villages and communities near the plant had been heavily shelled in the 24-hour period to yesterday morning by "tanks, mortars, barrel and jet artillery".

The occupation of the nuclear power plant has prompted fears of a nuclear disaster as both sides trade blame for shelling the site.

Sleeper hit
Austria's new night trains unveiled
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Canadian caribou
Herds flourish after conservation project
Page 37





A Ukrainian serviceman readies an artillery shell to fire at Russian positions in the Kharkiv region from a US-supplied M777 howitzer
PHOTOGRAPH: EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

'We have already lost'

Far-right Russian bloggers bemoan military failures

Pjotr Sauer

"The war in Ukraine will continue until the complete defeat of Russia," Igor Girkin, a far-right nationalist, grumbled in a video address to his 430,000 followers on Telegram on Monday. "We have already lost, the rest is just a matter of time."

Girkin, a former Russian intelligence colonel who became a commander of the pro-Russian separatist forces in 2014, is arguably the most prominent voice within an increasingly loud and angry group of ultra-nationalist and pro-war bloggers who have taken to berating the Kremlin for its failure to achieve its tactical objectives as the fighting enters its seventh month.

After Ukraine's latest counter-offensive in the south and the north-east of the country, these bloggers – who have so far had a public platform denied to many – have intensified their criticism of the army's performance in the war and urged Vladimir Putin to declare a full-scale mobilisation.

"They are certainly getting angrier, and with good and obvious reason, especially as the gap between the official line and the reality on the ground widens," said Mark Galeotti, an expert in Russian security affairs.

On Wednesday, Ukraine launched a surprise counterattack near the country's second biggest city, Kharkiv, encircling Balakliia, a strategically important town of 27,000 people, and recapturing several smaller settlements.

The military bloggers, often former veterans with contacts on the frontlines, also provide a rare insight into Russia's real performance on the ground. "Some are very dubious sources but there are also those – like Girkin – who know what they're talking about and clearly are in touch with people at the front or who otherwise are in the know," said Galeotti.

The Russian government has not published its own losses since 25 March, when it gave a total of 1,351 killed and 3,825 wounded. Western intelligence believes as many as 80,000 Russian soldiers have been killed or wounded since the start of the war.

Instead, the Russian defence ministry has repeatedly issued improbable statements about its own successes, boasting of having destroyed more than 40 western-made Himars rocket launchers and claiming to have decimated the Ukrainian air force. In a combative speech on Wednesday, Putin reiterated that Russia had "lost nothing" in a war he said was going according to plan.



Vladimir Putin: Russian president has been tolerant of far-right critics

1,351
Last official Russian death toll on 25 March, with 3,825 wounded; the west's estimate is 80,000 in total

500,000
Audience for the Telegram channel of pro-war blogger Starshe Eddy, up from 28,000 before the invasion

That optimism was not shared by others as Ukraine encircled Balakliia on Wednesday, pulling off what has already been labelled as one of the war's most impressive strategic moves and hailed as "good news" by Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, on Wednesday night.

"The armed forces of Ukraine have completely outplayed our command," Starshe Eddy, a popular pro-war Russian blogger, wrote on his Telegram channel. His audience on Telegram, like those of other war bloggers, has ballooned from about 28,000 in January to 500,000, according to analytics service Tgstat.

Aleksandr Kots, a pro-Kremlin war journalist, said: "We need to start doing something about the system where our leadership doesn't like to talk about bad news, and their subordinates don't want to upset their bosses."

Ukraine's latest offensive has also led to renewed calls from the far-right nationalists for a general mobilisation, a move Putin has so far avoided despite growing signs the Russian army is facing an acute lack of new soldiers. "Mobilisation is, let's put it bluntly, our only chance to avoid a crushing defeat," wrote Andrei Morozov, another popular blogger.

For now, the Kremlin seems to be willing to accept criticism from the pro-war bloggers. Girkin has repeatedly called for the firing of the defence minister and close Putin ally, Sergei Shoigu, urging in one post for the minister to be executed by firing squad. The Kremlin's tolerance is remarkable, experts say, given the new laws under which criticism of the war can be punished with up to 15 years in jail.

Pavel Luzhin, an independent Russian military expert, believes the bloggers provide an outlet for a section of the population to vent their anger. "The Kremlin is too scared to simply ignore the nationalist section of the population," Luzhin said, adding that some were probably operating with the tacit approval of the security services. Galeotti similarly said "many" of the bloggers were "connected to or protected by figures within the military or security agencies".

Girkin declined to comment for this article, saying he considered the western media "his enemy".

Analysis
Dan Sabbagh



Surprise counterattack wrong-foots invaders and shows sophisticated battlefield tactics

A sudden, unexpected Ukrainian military success south-east of Kharkiv changes the analysis of Kyiv's counterattack strategy. What had been expected to be a well-telegraphed effort to isolate the city of Kherson in the south has been turned on its head by the sudden pushback of Russian forces at the northern edge of the front.

The effort started on Tuesday and by Wednesday the US Institute for the Study of War estimated that Ukraine's forces had, in a surprise attack, advanced "at least 20km into Russian-held territory" recapturing approximately 400sq km in an area scarcely focused on by military analysts until now.

According to one Russian military blogger, as highlighted by Rob Lee, a former US marine and military analyst, Ukrainian forces massed a "powerful tank fist" with 15 tanks to break through the occupiers' lines. Cleverly, Kyiv had brought up its air defences in support, preventing Russian jets from immediately striking back to eradicate the gains, a sign of more sophisticated battlefield tactics.

The fighting is concentrated around the village of Balakliya 45 miles south-east of Kharkiv – which appears to still be held by the Russians, but which Ukraine hopes to surround – and in the vicinity of Shevchenkovo on the way to the Russian staging post of Kupiansk. The military aim is to increase pressure on Izyum, a strategic city captured by the invaders in April, a gateway to the western Donbas.

Ukraine is making clear it can be flexible and opportunistic – and anybody who is sure of Kyiv's strategy should be ready to be surprised

The assumption is Ukraine has taken advantage of redeployments by Russia away from the north and east of the vast frontline to launch its surprise attack, making clear that it is willing to be flexible and opportunistic – and that anybody who is sure of Kyiv's strategy should instead be willing to be surprised.

Contrast this with the Russian approach. Kremlin-directed forces are not used to thinking flexibly. When they have announced an offensive, as happened in spring, Moscow stuck to it, and for several months made slow but real gains in the eastern Donbas using the simple and grimly effective tactic of concentrating its artillery on a succession of cities, currently Bakhmut.

In the past few weeks, the initiative has passed to Ukraine – as demonstrated by this week's events south-east of Kharkiv. The medium-term strategic prize for Kyiv remains recapturing Kherson, because of its exposed position across the Dnipro River and because Russian-held bridges and river crossings resupplying the city appear easy to target.

Nevertheless, the progress near Kharkiv is significant, although it remains unclear if Ukraine can keep it up as autumn begins. Attackers usually sustain greater casualties. On the other hand, Ukrainian morale appears higher as the war drags on into its seventh month. The country's leaders are briefing allies it believes there is a short window into November where it can show that it could push the Russians back much further in a well planned offensive in the spring.

Coalition partners in Italy tread a fine line over Russia in race to the polls

Angela Giuffrida
Rome





> ***'They both want sanctions that will bring an end to the war – this is the goal'***
>
> **Michele Geraci**
> *Italian former minister*

◀ *Giorgia Meloni and Matteo Salvini disagree over sanctions at a conference on Sunday*
PHOTOGRAPH: PIER MARCO TACCA/GETTY

▼ *Salvini and Meloni show a united front, posing beside the sea in Sicily last week*
PHOTOGRAPH: TWITTER

Giorgia Meloni and Matteo Salvini, the far-right protagonists of a coalition on course to win Italy's general election this month, posed together in a warm embrace by the sea in Sicily last week in a show of unity.

Just days later, cracks between the Brothers of Italy chief who could become prime minister and Salvini, the leader of the League, were on display at a business conference where they disagreed on one of the most important themes of the moment – sanctions against Russia.

Although both parties have condemned the invasion of Ukraine, Salvini, who once upon a time heaped praise on Vladimir Putin, even signing a cooperation pact with the Russian president's United Russia party in 2017, said the sanctions were not working and were instead "bringing Europe and Italy to their knees".

Meloni, meanwhile, argues that the sanctions are working, citing a significant slowdown in Russia's GDP growth prospects. She has been resolute in her support for sending arms to Ukraine while reassuring the international community that she is pro-Europe and pro-Atlanticist.

Her stance is a marked change from her criticisms of the sanctions against the Kremlin after its annexation of Crimea in 2014, which she said had "massacred" Italian businesses.

It is a surprising shift from the leader of a party whose supporters are mostly against the latest penalties. According to a poll this week, just over half of Italians oppose the measures, owing to the strong impact they are having on the cost of living.

But Meloni has the wind in her sails – Brothers of Italy, a party with neo-fascist roots, is leading in opinion polls – and her approach appears to be twofold: trying to woo voters while reassuring international observers.

"She has understood that she could make it, and end up as prime minister," said Sofia Ventura, a politics professor at the University of Bologna. "So she has taken a bet. She doesn't want to frighten public opinion, and is aware that leading the country means having to show she's 100% Atlanticist and European."

Salvini, on the other hand, is trying to revive support for the League, which has slumped to about 12% in polls, down from almost 40% in August 2019 when he collapsed his coalition government with the populist Five Star Movement in a failed attempt to force snap elections that could have made him prime minister.

The two parties are part of a coalition forecast to claim a comfortable victory on 25 September. The third member is Forza Italia, the party of the three-time former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, who has also nurtured close ties with Putin's Russia.

As a coalition, they have pledged to maintain support for Ukraine and stand firm alongside the EU and Nato. Michele Geraci, a former economic development minister who has close ties to the League, believes this will be maintained once in power.

"There really isn't much difference between Meloni and Salvini – they have condemned the war in Ukraine and are both nationalist with a focus on the wellbeing of Italy," he said. "They also both want sanctions that will bring an end to the war – this is the goal."

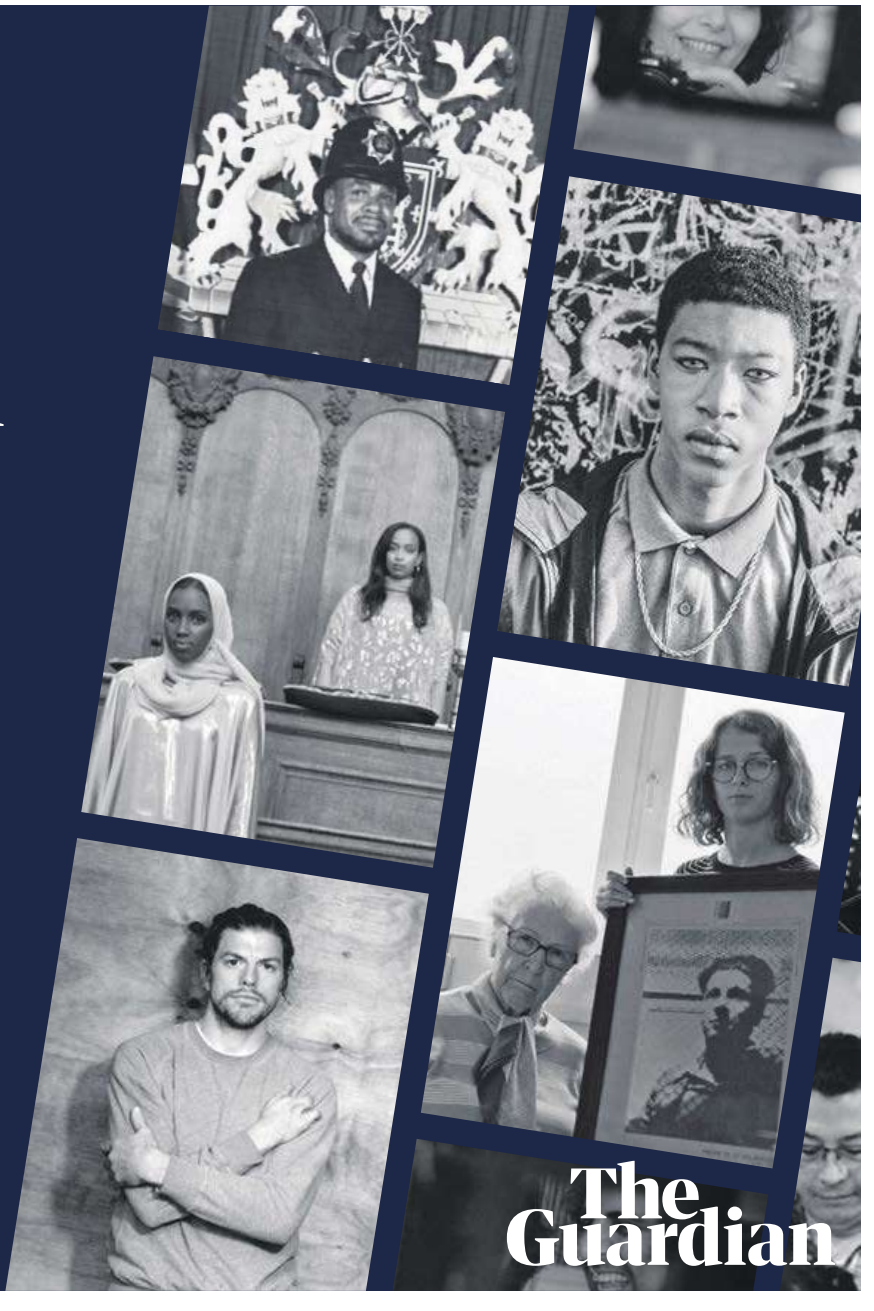
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Trump's former aide Bannon on money laundering charge over fundraising for US-Mexico wall

Hugo Lowell
New York

Steve Bannon, chief strategist at the White House during Donald Trump's presidency, has been charged with money laundering and conspiracy. The charges are in connection with his role in a fundraising effort to privately underwrite the construction of the US-Mexico border wall, according to the indictment unsealed yesterday.

The indictment includes money laundering in the first and second degree and conspiracy in the fourth degree.

Bannon surrendered to the Manhattan district attorney's office after being told in recent days that charges were imminent, sources familiar with the matter said.

He is facing charges stemming from allegations that he siphoned off more than $1m (£870,000) for personal expenses from the "We Build the Wall" fundraising effort that promised to send all proceeds towards underwriting the completion of the US-Mexico border wall.

He walked into the district attorney's office with his lawyer, David Schoen, shouting over assembled television cameras that he believed he was facing a political prosecution that sought to undermine his far-right talk show, War Room, in the 60-day run up to the 2022 midterm elections.

Bannon's case will be prosecuted by Alvin Bragg, the Manhattan district attorney, and Letitia James, the New York state attorney general.

If convicted on the top count, Bannon could receive a maximum of 15 years in prison, though none of the counts carry a mandatory minimum term of incarceration.

The state charges are expected to mirror a previous federal indictment that also charged three others - Brian Kolfage, Andrew Badolato and Timothy Shea - for defrauding donors to the online crowdfunding scheme that raised more than $25m, according to court filings.

Bannon received a presidential pardon from Trump in the last days of his administration that expunged the federal charges. But pardons do not apply to state-level prosecutions and the New York state charges mark significant legal peril for the architect of Trump's 2016 election victory.



▲ *Steve Bannon arrives at a New York court to be charged yesterday*

The expected indictment comes weeks after Bannon was convicted on two counts of criminal contempt of Congress for defying a subpoena from the House select committee investigating the 6 January Capitol attack. Bannon is expected to appeal against that conviction.

Constructing a wall at the US-Mexico border became a rallying cry for Trump throughout his 2016 election campaign - overseen by Bannon - and his presidency. The charges suggested Bannon and his co-defendants exploited the popularity of the project to dupe donors for their own gain. Trump had promised that the wall would be funded by Mexico.

"Defendants defrauded hundreds of thousands of donors, capitalising on their interest in funding a border wall to raise millions of dollars, under the false pretence that all of that money would be spent on construction," Audrey Strauss, the US attorney in Manhattan, said at the time.

The developments in the federal case were closely watched, initially because of Bannon's involvement and how he was taken off a luxury yacht by federal agents, and then after his pardon, because none of the other three defendants received similar executive action from Trump.

The fundraising effort brought in more than $25m - at which point Bannon, a former Goldman Sachs investment banker, siphoned off more than $1m through a non-profit organisation that he controlled to help pay Kolfage and for personal expenses, the indictment said.

Kolfage took more than $350,000 in donated funds and used that money to pay for home renovations, a luxury SUV, a boat, a golf cart, cosmetic surgery and jewellery, the indictment said. Kolfage and Badolato both pleaded guilty to the charges.

> ***'They defrauded thousands of donors ... under the false pretence that money would be spent on construction'***
>
> **Audrey Strauss**
> *Former US attorney*



▲ *One of ÖBB's current sleeper trains. The Austrian operator is seen as a trailblazer in the market*
PHOTOGRAPH: MAURITIUS IMAGES/ALAMY

Overnight sensations: new Austrian sleeper trains unveiled

Kate Connolly
Berlin

From cosy sleeping pods to sliding doors, ambient lighting to curvaceous seating, a new generation of night trains boasting slick features designed to maximise passengers' comfort and privacy are expected to be whizzing across Europe from next year.

Nightjet, the sleeper division of Austria's national railway, ÖBB - considered one of the world's trailblazers in night rail travel - unveiled the interior of its new wagons this week.

Travel writers and railway buffs invited to Vienna to inspect them said they had the potential to give a new boost to the industry and a sense of optimism at a time of huge challenges such as the energy crisis and the climate emergency.

The carriages focus on passengers' wishes for more privacy and safety, including cocoon-like cabins for individual travellers with lockable doors, and sliding shutters between pods at head level to allow for inter-cabin conversation, when desired.

Other conveniences include a free wireless connection, power points, dimmable lighting and soft seating areas.



▲ *The new Nightjet sleeper compartments have dimmable lights and soft seating areas*

The routes the Nightjets are expected to travel on span cities including Vienna, Budapest, Berlin, Milan, Rome and Zurich.

A total of 33 Nightjet trains, in which ÖBB has invested €700m, are to be launched starting from next summer and fully introduced by 2025. Each includes seven carriages, including two seating cars, two sleeping cars - with two-person compartments - and three sleeper cars with four-person suites, as well as mini-cabins for individual travellers. Each train is capable of carrying 254 people, more than the capacity of most short-haul planes, and will be able to travel at up to 143mph.

Nightjet has promised its prices will be competitive with those of airlines, with sleeping car tickets available for between €50 and €100. It has said the carriages will also provide wheelchair accessibility.

"A journey with a Nightjet is 50 times more climate friendly than making the same journey by plane," Austria's environment minister, Leonore Gewessler, who has championed the effort to boost night train travel, said at the launch.

Canada mass stabbing suspect dies in hospital after arrest

Leyland Cecco *Toronto*
Betty Ann Adam *Saskatoon*

The fugitive wanted over a mass stabbing in Canada in which 10 people were killed and 18 injured has died in hospital after his arrest, police have confirmed, with sources saying his death was the result of self-inflicted wounds.

Myles Sanderson went into "medical distress" after his arrest, said Rhonda Blackmore, assistant commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Police found a knife in the truck he was driving, which officers had rammed off the road, but Blackmore would not comment on the cause of his death.

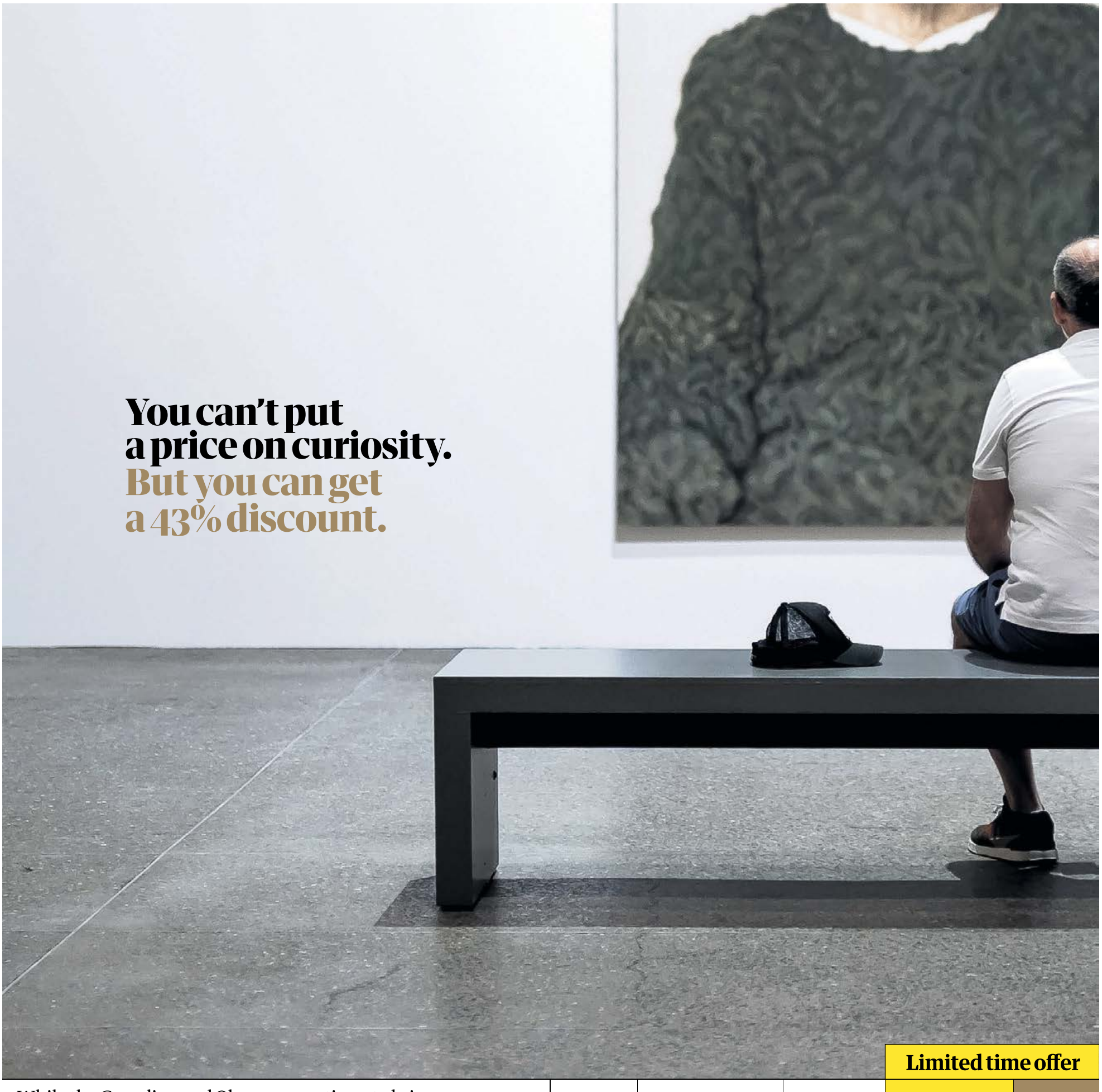
With Sanderson dead, police may never know what motivated him in the mass stabbing, Blackmore said.

Police launched a renewed search operation on Wednesday after being called to a report of a break-in involving Sanderson armed with a knife, where a Chevrolet truck was stolen.

Sanderson, 32, faced murder charges for his role in the knife attack that devastated the James Smith Cree Nation, an indigenous community, and the nearby village of Weldon.

News of his death came after the released of the names of the 10 victims: Thomas Burns, 23, Carol Burns, 46, Gregory Burns, 28, Lydia Gloria Burns, 61, Bonnie Burns, 48, Earl Burns, 66, Lana Head, 49, Christian Head, 54, Robert Sanderson, 49, and Wesley Petterson, 78.

Sanderson's brother, Damien, 31, who was also initially suspected in the attack, was found dead on Monday near the sites of the attacks. Authorities say his injuries were not self-inflicted.



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Mother and calf doing well

Indigenous-led maternity unit gives Canada's caribou a boost



▲ *Starr Gauthier refills a trough with hand-collected lichen for the caribou*

Leyland Cecco
British Columbia

In a cramped cabin in western Canada, Starr Gauthier's mornings begin with a comforting routine. As the sun flits through stands of mountain evergreens, she brews coffee, chops wood and prepares food – for her co-worker and for the endangered caribou whose fate rests in her hands. "I get fired up every morning knowing that we're actually doing something that matters," says the former oil worker.

"And it's not just that we're serving a purpose for our community and the ecosystem around us. We're serving a global purpose. And I'm grateful to be a part of that."

Gauthier, a member of the Saulteau First Nation in British Columbia, is part of an Indigenous-led effort that has saved a caribou herd from destruction. The group's success in using a carefully guarded maternity pen has become an example for Indigenous communities grappling with the catastrophic loss of biodiversity.

The pen, in a forest along the slopes of the Selkirk mountains, is surrounded by about a mile of black geofabric wall and protected by two layers of electrified fencing. Inside, a ridge runs down the middle, dividing the enclosure into a wide meadow and an area of thick forest.

In two-week shifts, members of the nearby First Nations known as caribou guardians spend their days watching over the hardy mammals that thrived for thousands of years on the lichen-rich forests in the highlands of eastern British Columbia. They were once so common that Indigenous elders likened them to "bugs on the landscape".

The damming of a large river in 1960, however, shattered a key migration route in what would be the first blow to the caribou. Indigenous communities voluntarily banned hunting as populations plunged, but decades of mining and logging projects in the region destroyed the vast expanses of forests the caribou needed to survive. Today, many of the province's mountain caribou, an ecotype of woodland caribou, are imperilled. The province has lost at least five herds, including the Burnt Pine herd in 2013, despite legal efforts from West Moberly First Nation to save it.

The following year, with the Klinse-Za herd recording only 16 members, the Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations decided to act to prevent another loss. They took five females from the Klinse-Za and five from the neighbouring – and equally embattled – Scott East herd.

Working with biologists, the aim was to shelter the pregnant caribou from predators and then release the mothers and calves when they were old enough to survive in the wild.

The bold experiment was a success: many of the calves survived and the move effectively combined the two herds, bolstering their chances of survival. In the years since, the herd has grown from 36 animals to nearly 135.

"It's been amazing to see the success we've had," says Gauthier, who has spent four years working on the project. "And I can't help but wonder what would have happened if the numbers kept dropping … If [community leaders] hadn't acted, today that number could have been zero for all we know."

When mother and calf are ready to leave, the team dismantles part of the wall and guides them back into the forest to join the herd. The survival rate for calves born in the pen is nearly 60% – double that of calves born in the wild.

Gauthier sees the project not only as a local success story, but as an opportunity for Indigenous communities to take the lead in conservation projects. "Hopefully other First Nations take our lead and will be able to just stand up and say, 'Hey, let's get this done. This is what's right'," she says.





▲ *A mother and newborn calf from the Klinse-Za mountain caribou herd, protected in an electrified enclosure, left, run by the West Moberly and Salteau First Nations*
PHOTOGRAPHS: JESSE WINTER/REUTERS



▲ *Caribou guardians Starr Gauthier and Lucas Talving breakfast outside the cabin as they watch over the herd*

> ***'If community leaders hadn't acted, today that number [of caribou] could have been zero for all we know'***
>
> **Starr Gauthier**
> *Caribou guardian*

China cracks down on extravagant versions of mooncakes

Helen Davidson
Taipei

Chinese authorities have launched a crackdown on "sky high" mooncake prices before this weekend's autumn festival, amid government efforts to curb corruption and societal excesses.

Mooncakes, a small dessert baked with varying designs and fillings, are traditionally given to family and friends to celebrate one of the most important holidays in the lunar calendar. Known as mid-autumn festival in China and Taiwan, it is called Tsukimi in Japan, Chuseok in South Korea, and Tet Trung Thu in Vietnam.

International online shopping guides have collated the best places to find the most luxurious boxes of mooncakes to impress friends and relatives for the celebration of the autumn harvest. Some cost upwards of £20 each cake, or come with luxury branding. But in Xi Jinping's China, such opulent gifts are not just frowned upon but heavily regulated.

In the lead up to the festival, anti-corruption and commerce authorities have targeted sellers who over-charge or offer "excessive packaging" that exceeds strict limits on production costs and banned ingredients. As part of the campaign, sellers are required to keep mooncake sales records for two years. Law enforcement officers have inspected 180,000 sellers and suppliers, the state administration for market regulation said.

Authorities said the average box of mooncakes cost about 70 yuan (about £9) to produce, and should not exceed a retail price of 500 yuan, local media said. About 80% of products were sold for less than half that, but some sellers were flouting regulations by pricing cakes at 499 yuan, or combining them with extravagant gift packages. Some have bundled them with other products such as nuts, mislabelled them as "pastry gift sets", or sold them as part of high-end packages.

Clarissa Wei, a Taipei-based journalist , said the giving of mooncakes en masse began in the mid-20th century in Hong Kong, and spread to mainland China. They were now a status symbol, she said, and had an element of competitiveness.

Additional reporting
Xiaoqian Zhu and Chi Hui Lin



▲ *Mooncakes are traditionally given during the mid-autumn festival*

‘The Indus is angry’: Pakistani artist on the devastation the river has wreaked

Shah Meer Baloch
Larkana

A Pakistani artist whose work centres on the Indus river delta, its wildlife and the climate crisis has told of his return to his home village and seeing the devastation its swollen waters had brought.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who is named after his grandfather, the former prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, said he had met people fearful for what the future might bring and heard the sound of houses collapsing into the water.

“I received infinite calls for help from people in my home province, Sindh, and decided to go to my village near Naudero city in the middle of the rains to be among people,” the textile artist and wildlife activist, a member of the politically prominent Bhutto family, told the Guardian.

“When I reached my village two weeks ago, every house had fallen, and people were taking refuge on the embankment. While we were walking towards fields, houses were falling. There was the sound ‘boom’, as the houses fell. It sounded like a bomb. [...] it is due to the climate crisis.”

At least 1,250 people have been killed as one-third of Pakistan is under water after the country was ravaged by floods, caused by weeks of abnormal monsoon rains beginning in mid-June, that washed away livestock, crops, roads and bridges.

Bhutto said his work had focused on gender-identity and queer Muslim culture but the urgency of the climate crisis, the river and its threatened Indus River dolphins had changed him as an artist. He said he believed artists needed to be part of the conversation on the climate crisis.

The awakening came when Bhutto returned to Pakistan from the US in 2020 after graduating in fine arts. Visiting Larkana, his home village, for the first time in six years, he said he felt the Indus was dying. “We have had evidence of other rivers that have died in the past,” he said. “And this is the lifeblood of our country. This is the lifeblood of this nation. Around 90% of Pakistan is dependent on the Indus. We are bonded by this river and water. It is a sacred link. For me, it felt very urgent.”

He added: “Most of the people are displaced and are climate refugees but there are also people who are from the middle or upper-middle class who survived the floodings - they too are unsure what to do in this crisis.”

He believes the river has been damaged by human engineering, including the colonial-era British-built Sukkur barrage, which disrupted the flow of the river to irrigate cash crops for export.

“And after the independence of Pakistan, we continued the same policies of the British,” said Bhutto, adding that highways had been built on the Indus’s natural drainage basin and floodplain. He said this explained why, when he was travelling back to Sindh a few days ago, the highways were flooded. “We’ve completely eliminated the river’s way of healing itself. So it is jarring and it is angry and is breaking and pouring from this side and that side ... We should not intrude into nature and close its paths.”

Bhutto said the crisis had made people angry. Local people in Sindh had told him their houses had collapsed but no representatives had come to their aid. “A revolution is coming because when people are angry, they’re not thinking about what they’re going to lose as they’ve already lost everything.”

Bhutto said his grandfather was the only politician to introduce land reforms in the country, adding that after he was hanged by the dictator Gen Zia ul-Haq, those reforms were reversed. “It’s high time we need land reforms and we need equality,” Bhutto said. “We need these reforms for people so that everyone has a say in development and we don’t disturb the course of nature.”



‘We’ve completely eliminated its way of healing itself so it is pouring from this side and that’

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto
Artist



▼ *Military personnel rescue people from their damaged houses after heavy rains and flooding in the district of Dadu, Sindh province*
PHOTOGRAPH: AAMIR QURESHI/AFP/GETTY

Local official arrested after Las Vegas reporter dies

Lois Beckett

Four days after the investigative journalist Jeff German was found dead outside his Las Vegas home, police have arrested a local official who had been the focus of German’s reporting, on suspicion of murder, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Robert Telles, an elected official who serves as the Clark county public administrator, was put into an ambulance about 6pm, just hours after officials had searched Telles’s home, according to the Review Journal.

German, a veteran journalist who had covered Las Vegas for 40 years, was found outside his house with stab wounds on Saturday morning, according to the Review-Journal, where German worked as a reporter on the investigations team. He also contributed to the newspaper’s true crime podcast, Mobbed Up.

On Wednesday, local police were observed outside the home of Telles and a section of his residence was taped off, the newspaper and other Las Vegas news outlets reported.

Telles lost his primary re-election bid for the local position in June, after German reported articles on allegations of bullying and mismanagement in Telles’s office, as well as claims of an “inappropriate relationship” between Telles and a staffer.

Telles, 45, a career attorney who ran for office as a Democrat, had denied the accusations and repeatedly lashed out at the reporter investigating his conduct, calling German a “bully” on Twitter and writing that a request for comment was “a veiled threat”.

Hours after Las Vegas police released an image of a vehicle linked to the suspect in German’s stabbing, Las Vegas Review-Journal journalists “spotted Telles in the driveway of his home with a vehicle matching that description”, the newspaper reported. They observed the vehicle outside Telles’s house again on Wednesday morning.

The Las Vegas police department confirmed in a statement on Wednesday that it “is currently serving search warrants” related to a homicide investigation, but said that it would not provide any further information “at this time”.

Authorities did not immediately respond to messages and emails seeking comment on Telles’s arrest.



▲ *Jeff German was an investigative journalist for 40 years*

French dentist jailed over fraud and mass mutilation scheme

Angelique Chrisafis
Paris

A multimillionaire dentist in France has been jailed for deliberately mutilating patients from low-income neighbourhoods of the southern city of Marseille, in a money-making scheme in which he performed thousands of unnecessary procedures.

Lionel Guedj, 41, was jailed for eight years and his father, Carnot Guedj, 70, who worked part-time for him, was jailed for five years after a court heard harrowing accounts of patients who had booked an appointment for minor issues such as a cavity or loose crown but had scores of healthy teeth removed.

The state prosecution team described how Lionel Guedj deliberately harmed healthy patients from the northern quarters of Marseille in order to defraud the social security system. The court heard how he sought to make maximum profits by forcing unsuspecting patients to undergo unnecessary procedures, showing “total disdain” for their health and then reaping payments from the social security system.

In one example, between 2006 and 2012, Guedj was accused of performing 3,900 root canals on 327 patients who had no medical need for the procedure, simply because he wanted to fit bridges which would make him money. Dental procedures which normally took 45 minutes to an hour were performed by Guedj in about 10 minutes - many of them resulting in infections, complications or permanent damage.

3,900
Number of root canals Lionel Guedj performed on 327 patients who had no medical need for the procedure

Such was Guedj’s “industrial” ploy, squeezing in the maximum of procedures into minimum time, that in 2010, he became the highest-earning dental surgeon in France, making up to €2.9m in fees. He amassed personal wealth including property, paintings and luxury cars.

One man who suffered a series of tooth extractions described how his life had been seriously affected. “I can’t eat properly ... I don’t laugh like I did before.”

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7262.06	3990.56	31593.52	28065.28	+0.0013	+0.0023

Financial

Darktrace share price slumps after takeover talks collapse

Rob Davies

Shares in Darktrace, a British artificial intelligence and cybersecurity company, slumped by nearly 35% after the US private equity firm Thoma Bravo walked away from a potential takeover of the business, whose founder, Mike Lynch, is fighting extradition to the US on fraud charges.

Despite full-year results showing an increase in sales, helping the Cambridge-based company turn a profit after last year's heavy losses, investors sold off Darktrace stock in droves yesterday, as the chances of a money-spinning takeover evaporated.

Under City takeover rules, Thoma Bravo cannot return with an offer within six months, except if certain conditions are met, such as a rival bidder entering the fray, or an agreement being reached directly with the Darktrace board.

As Darktrace's stock tumbled by 34.5% to 337.1p yesterday, Shadow-Fall, a hedge fund that has taken bets on its shares falling, said the end of Thoma Bravo's interest vindicated its belief that the company was overvalued.

But in a statement accompanying Darktrace's annual results, its second as a public company after last year's stock market float, the chief executive shrugged off the dissolution of talks that could have triggered £200m in payouts for senior managers.

"Being listed on the London Stock Exchange is exactly where we want to be right now," said Poppy Gustafsson, a former protege of Lynch, who still owns more than 12% of the company together with his wife.

Lynch's legal travails have cast a shadow over Darktrace, despite his day-to-day involvement with the business ending earlier this year.

The billionaire is expected to learn within weeks whether he has won the right to appeal against extradition to the US, where he is facing charges over the $11bn (£9.5bn) sale of his tech business Autonomy to Hewlett-Packard in 2011.

> *'We have a proven business model. Our results show our strong performance'*
>
> **Darktrace, reporting its full-year figures**

His former lieutenant, the one-time Autonomy chief financial officer Sushovan Hussain, has been jailed over the same deal.

When it floated on the stock market last year, Darktrace admitted that there was a risk it could be face potential money-laundering charges, should the proceeds of the sale of Autonomy be found to have helped fund its growth.

In the UK this year, the high court ruled that Lynch had duped HP into paying far too much for Autonomy, resulting in the US buyer taking a $9bn writedown on the value of its acquisition.

The case focused on accounting trickery allegedly used by Autonomy staff to paint a false picture of how well its software was selling, including bringing forward revenues that should not yet have been booked.

In yesterday's full-year result, Darktrace was at pains to be upfront about the timing of revenue accounting, revealing that $3.8m of revenue should have been booked in 2021, rather than reported in its 2022 first-half results.

Despite the disclosure, Darktrace reported a strong operating performance, as sales soared by nearly 46% to $415m, turning last year's $144m pre-tax loss into a $5m profit.

"Since listing on the public markets, we've turbocharged our growth by adding ground-breaking products to our platform, including our new Prevent [cyberdefence software] offerings," it said.

"We have a proven business model, which is generating cash. Today's results are yet another example of our strong performance."

ECB tackles eurozone inflation with record interest rate increase

Phillip Inman

The European Central Bank has raised interest rates across the eurozone by a record margin to combat soaring inflation that has reached double figures in some of the currency bloc's 19 member countries.

Setting aside concerns that higher rates would add to the squeeze on consumers' disposable incomes and increase the depth of a looming recession, the central bank's 25-member governing council raised its key benchmarks by an unprecedented 0.75 of a percentage point to 1.25%.

The move follows a similar increase by the US Federal Reserve and is expected to put pressure on the Bank of England to follow suit when its policymakers meet next week to review the UK's monetary policy.

The ECB announced its first increase in rates in 11 years at its previous meeting in July, raising rates by a half-point.

Its benchmark is now 1.25% for lending to banks. The Fed's main benchmark is 2.25% to 2.5% after several large rate rises, including two of three-quarters of a point. The Bank's key benchmark is 1.75%.

Rising eurozone inflation, which reached a record rate of 9.1% last month amid rocketing gas prices, has forced the ECB to tear up its usual rule book of incremental increases.

Christine Lagarde, the president of the ECB, indicated the central bank was ready to announce further rate rises to tackle high inflation and bring it down to its 2% target.

"We have a goal, we have a mission. We want to get that 2% medium-term target and we will take the necessary steps to get there," she said.

Altaf Kassam, the head of European investment strategy at State Street Global Advisors, said the increase was "inevitable" after a surprise jump in the headline rate of inflation in August.

"This hike was about putting a floor under the euro, and keeping a lid on the extra imported inflation its weakness had brought," he said.

The euro has tumbled recently to parity with the dollar, increasing the cost of imports and adding to the pressure on prices growth.

Some sceptics accused the ECB of overreacting despite lagging behind major central banks. "There is a risk that this determined approach by the ECB will not only lead to lower growth and employment but lower than needed to tame inflation," wrote Erik F Nielsen of UniCredit Bank.

Primark warns of lower profits as energy bills rise by £100m

Kalyeena Makortoff

The owner of Primark has warned it is expecting lower profits next year as it grapples with a strong dollar and soaring costs that have pushed annual energy bills up by about £100m.

In previous years the fast-fashion retailer has faced an increase in energy bills of about £10m, but Primark has now had a 10-fold increase in that figure, with bills rising by £100m this year alone, a spokesperson for its parent Associated British Foods (ABF) confirmed.

The group said that surging inflation was also expected to eat into shoppers' disposable incomes, adding that the group was struggling with rising raw material prices.

However, ABF said it would not increase prices at Primark "beyond those already actioned and planned", as it attempted to protect sales.

The group also warned its finances would be hit by the stronger US dollar against the pound and euro, which had made it more expensive to purchase some of its goods. This comes amid rising labour costs and supply chain disruptions, which have been adding to a growing list of financial pressures affecting the business.



▲ *Primark stores have been hit by a strong dollar, soaring costs and a drop in customer spending*

PHOTOGRAPH: EMILY MACINNES/GETTY IMAGES

ABF said it expected adjusted operating profits and earnings per share to be lower in 2023 than the current financial year, the results of which would be released on 8 November.

The company said it had not decided whether it would have any cash to distribute to shareholders. ABF shares declined by more than 7% yesterday morning, making it the biggest faller on the FTSE 100.

Primark has benefited from higher revenues in the UK after the end of Covid-related restrictions. It does not offer an online shopping service but plans launch its click-and-collect service in the run-up to Christmas.

However, the budget fashion chain said it had experienced a drop in spending in continental Europe, where retail sales had been slightly weaker than expected.

The retailer said it would avoid raising its prices beyond the increases it already had planned over the next year, in an attempt to avert a further slowdown in spending.

It would mean keeping annual price increases in the "mid- to high single digits" in the year to August 2023, its finance chief, John Bason, said. "Our price point and our competitive position is really important."

Bason denied the company was considering potential job cuts, saying its plans would more likely result in reducing the number of hours for workers on temporary contracts.

Business view
Nils Pratley



At last, the government has an energy strategy – the only thing missing is all the crucial details

After three days in office, Liz Truss's administration could not be expected to have every detail of its big-bucks energy strategy nailed down. Even so, the striking feature – beyond the well-trailed two-year price cap for households – was how much has been filed under "to do" or "details to follow". At least six areas of the canvas are virtually blank.

First, six months of "equivalent" support for businesses, public sector bodies and charities inevitably prompts the question of what happens in April. On what basis will deserving causes for continuing help be selected?

Second, negotiations with electricity generators – mainly nuclear power plants and wind and solar projects – to reduce their prices seem barely to have started. The principle of switching firms to contracts-for-difference is fine (for reasons discussed in this column previously) but success will be determined solely by how low prices can be made to fall.

With wholesale prices around £400 per megawatt hour, some generators' windfall profits will be enormous. Would a good outcome for taxpayers be a contracted price close to £40, which is roughly where the last capacity auction came out? Or, given that lucrative old-style "renewables obligations certificates" have obvious value, is £100 realistic? The difference matters hugely if new contracts could run as long as 15 years.

Ministers can't negotiate in public but it's hard to detect any sense the Treasury itself knows where it is aiming. The scheme, in essence, is the alternative to Labour's idea for an extended windfall tax and this should be a "negotiation" in the sense that generators are told, more or less, the definition of a fair price.

Third, will the Treasury's joint £40bn liquidity support scheme with the Bank of England, due "by the end of October or sooner", arrive in time? Anecdotal evidence suggests pips are squeaking among power firms as they attempt to sign collateral-backed hedging contracts in the wholesale market. It would be embarrassing, to put it mildly, if replacing Ofgem's price cap leads to more corporate failures. The situation does not need more Bulbs.

Fourth, the terms of reference for the new energy supply taskforce need to be clear. The government is underwriting, in effect, the energy purchases of private companies so it needs to know contracts are on commercial terms. There is a clear risk the odd billion slips between the cracks.

> *The energy strategy would have had fewer gaps if big decisions had been made months ago. A summer of Tory larks has had consequences*

Fifth, while "fundamental reforms to the structure and regulation of the energy market" are desperately needed, there's no hint of quick wins. One of Ofgem's many failures was its inability to spot that coupling the price of electricity to the price of gas would cause trouble one day. A review of that pricing set-up is already under way but needs to be accelerated.

Sixth, there was nothing new on measures to improve energy efficiency, even though calls for mass insulation have been heard for months. A public information campaign is better than nothing, but other European countries have been on the job for ages.

On the plus side, the domestic price cap, for all its imperfections (untargeted and of unknowable expense), provides households with certainty this winter. And Truss has swallowed her free-market instincts and understood that intervention at the wholesale end must be part of the same deal.

It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the plan would have fewer gaps if big decisions had been made months ago. A long summer of Tory leadership larks has had consequences.

GKN on starting blocks

Melrose Industries' private equity-style mantra is "buy, improve, sell". After buying GKN, the grand but misfiring FTSE 100 automotive and aerospace engineer, in a bitter battle in 2018, it reckons it's a long way down the track with the improvement part of the exercise. Operations-wise, GKN looks fitter. But finding buyers is proving tricky.

Thus there will be a demerger in London next year of the automotive business. In commercial terms, a split makes sense. The two halves of GKN have always looked destined to go different ways, and separation allows both companies to hunt for bolt-on acquisitions.

But as a way to "unlock value for shareholders" – the other ambition – there is work to do. Melrose's shares fell 9%. It was a reminder that, in the end, the private equity model requires a crystallisation event, in deal-making lingo. A demerger doesn't qualify.



PHOTOGRAPH: JAMIE MCCARTHY/ GETTY IMAGES

Kashing in Kim Kardashian has ventured into the world of finance, launching private equity firm SKKY Partners, which the billionaire reality TV star says will invest in "high-growth, consumer and media companies".

Lloyd's of London braced for £1.1bn hit after hard year

Julia Kollewe

Lloyd's of London has warned of a "challenging year" of natural catastrophes, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and inflation as the world's oldest insurance market braced for a £1.1bn hit from unrecoverable planes and cargoes related to the war in Ukraine.

The group said it had set aside the sum for customers affected by the conflict, mostly for grounded aircraft, ships trapped in the Black Sea and disrupted exports of agricultural products from Ukraine and Russia.

Bruce Carnegie-Brown, the chairman, said Lloyd's had estimated the losses using the same methodology as for the Covid-19 pandemic but only about 4% of claims for losses from the war had been received so far. The pandemic was far more costly for the Lloyd's market, where 76 firms operate, at £3.5bn. Overall, the war in Ukraine could cost the global insurance industry £10bn to £12bn, according to industry estimates.

Lloyd's has worked with the UK government to implement sanctions imposed over the war, including cancelling Russian firms' insurance cover. At the same time, it insures ships transporting grain from Ukraine's ports under a UN-brokered deal in July, up to a limit of $500m (£433m).

"These grain exports are going to emerging market countries and the countries that are most vulnerable to famine as a result of the food shortage. A number of them have been docking in east Africa as we speak," Carnegie-Brown told the Guardian.

"These exports are on ships that are trapped in Ukraine. The key issue will be whether people are willing to sail back into the Black Sea to pick up further exports of grain and we haven't reached that point yet … Time will tell, but so far the results are good."

As the cost of living crisis worsens, the corporation will make a one-off £2,500 payment to about 1,000 staff who earn less than £75,000 a year, 60% of its headcount, to help them with soaring energy and food bills.

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The Guardian

Ministers meet for crunch talks on measures to tackle EU energy price crisis



The president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the Dutch prime minister, Mark Rutte (second from right), in Rotterdam yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: KOEN VAN WEEL/ ANP/AFP/GETTY

Jennifer Rankin
Brussels

EU energy ministers will gather for emergency talks in Brussels today to thrash out common measures to counter the gas and electricity price crisis, which threatens to make bills unaffordable for households and businesses and tip Europe into recession.

The president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, has set out a five-point plan that includes a controversial price cap on Russian gas, which is likely to draw strong opposition from some member states.

Her proposals, which also include a windfall tax on oil and gas profits, an energy saving drive and a cap on the cost of low-carbon electricity, were published the day before Liz Truss, as the UK's new prime minister, announced her £150bn freeze on energy bills.

A senior diplomat said there was no majority in favour of capping Russian gas, a measure designed to limit Kremlin revenues used to finance the war in Ukraine.

Vladimir Putin has dismissed the idea as stupid, and threatened to turn off the taps to Europe if the plan goes ahead. Russia now supplies only 9% of the EU's gas imports, down from 40% before the war, so the commission believes it can manage the risk of a total shutdown.

But a trio of member states that import a lot of gas from Russia – Austria, Hungary and Slovakia – oppose the idea. Hungary, which recently signed a contract with the energy company Gazprom for extra supplies, argues that the Russian gas price cap is a sanction and should be decided only by unanimity, giving Budapest veto power over the decision.

On the other hand, a dozen other countries including France, Italy and Poland support a gas price cap, but argue it should apply to all imported forms of the fuel, including liquefied natural gas.

> ***'A cap on all gas might risk compromising volumes in winter'***
>
> **Simone Tagliapietra**
> *Bruegel thinktank*

Philip Lowe, the former top civil servant at the commission's energy directorate general, told the Guardian he supported that position. "If the objective is to protect European businesses and households from the current high gas prices [and not just impose sanctions on Russia], a wholesale price cap needs to be applied to any gas regardless of its origin," said Lowe, now a partner at the economics consultancy Oxera.

"The market for gas, whether transported as LNG or by pipeline, is increasingly part of one global market and world demand for gas is growing, so capping prices in only one segment of the market won't be enough."

Germany is undecided but fears the policy risks spoiling EU unity. The Netherlands, meanwhile, has voiced reluctance over any price cap, arguing it contradicts the EU's goal of boosting supplies of tanker gas.

Simone Tagliapietra, a senior fellow at the thinktank Bruegel, said that when it came to gas "Europe has two problems – quantity and price", adding: "We need to tackle the second problem without making the first worse. That is the difficult trade-off policymakers are facing. And if we put a cap on all gas we might risk compromising the first point, which is the ability to secure the volumes in the winter."

There is more consensus about other parts of the commission plan, such as windfall taxes on oil and gas companies that have reaped large profits from turbulence in the energy market. Unlike the UK, where Truss has ruled out new windfall taxes, France, Germany, Italy and Spain are among EU states that have promised or introduced levies on extraordinary profits to fund their support programmes for vulnerable consumers.

EU governments are also supportive of an efficiency drive to cut electricity demand, although many capitals think the targets should be voluntary rather than mandatory, as favoured by Brussels. Energy savings campaigns are gaining momentum: this week alone French citizens have been urged to turn down heating and air conditioning, while Italians were asked to turn off the hob once pasta water starts boiling.

Also gaining support are plans to tweak EU state aid rules and market regulations, amid growing concern that utility firms could be forced into insolvency owing to a lack of cash.

Earlier this week Finland and Sweden announced plans to offer billions of euros in liquidity guarantees. Finland's government said that without €10bn (£8.6bn) of liquidity support, the sector risked "a kind of a Lehman Brothers", referring to the bankruptcy of the US investment bank in 2008, widely seen as having triggered the financial crisis.

Yesterday the UK signalled it was set to follow suit, with a £40bn liquidity facility for energy companies underpinned by the Bank of England.

The commission is expected to publish formal legal proposals on the energy plan next Wednesday, when Von der Leyen gives her annual speech outlining her policy programme for the year ahead.

Morrison's takeover of McColl's 'will not harm majority' of rivals

Mark Sweney

Morrisons' takeover of convenience store chain McColl's creates competition concerns in only a small number of local areas, according to the UK competition watchdog, paving the way for clearance of the £190m rescue deal.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), which said its initial investigation had found concerns in 35 local areas where the two brands competed, said that overall the deal "would not harm the vast majority of shoppers or other businesses".

Morrisons, which in May beat the owner of Asda to buy McColl's after the 1,100-store chain went into administration, is the UK's fourth-biggest grocer, operating 500 stores. Under a previous arrangement, about 270 of McColl's shops operate as Morrisons Daily outlets.

The probable green light after competition concerns will be welcomed by the newspaper and magazine industry, with McColl's stores an important local distribution network for newsstand sales beyond the big supermarkets and chains such as WH Smith.

Morrisons was acquired by the US private equity group Clayton, Dubilier & Rice (CD&R) in a £7bn takeover battle last year. CD&R is also the parent company of the Motor Fuel Group (MFG), which operates more than 800 convenience stores, the vast majority of which are part of its petrol stations.

"The CMA has found that the merger between Morrisons and McColl's raises competition concerns in 35 areas where McColl's or MFG convenience stores will face reduced competition if the deal is allowed to go ahead as planned," the regulator found. "Weaker competition could lead to higher prices or a lower quality of service for the customers in these areas who rely on their local shops for groceries."

The CMA launched its phase one investigation of Morrisons and McColl's in July, after they submitted the deal for review and asked the regulator to move to a discussion on remedies to get it through. Morrisons has five working days to submit proposals to solve the competition issues, and the CMA has five more working days to consider whether to accept them instead of referring the deal to a lengthy in-depth phase 2 investigation.



35

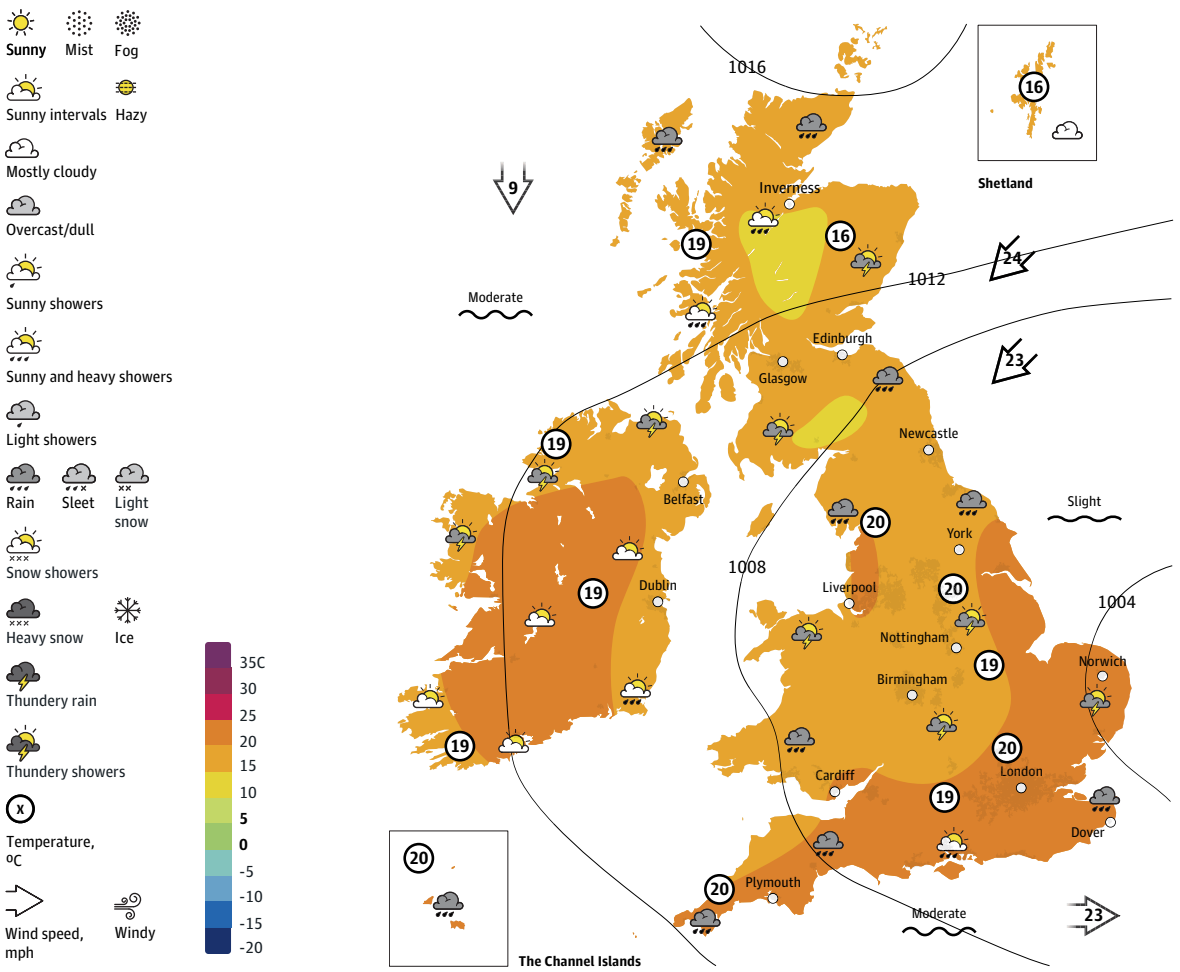
Number of areas where McColl's or MFG stores would face reduced competition, according to the CMA

Sorcha O'Carroll, a senior director of mergers at the CMA, said: "As the cost of living soars, it's particularly important that shops are facing proper competition so that customers get the best prices possible when picking up essentials or doing the weekly shop.

"While the vast majority of shoppers and other businesses won't lose out, we are concerned that the deal could lead to higher prices for people in some areas. If Morrisons and McColl's can address these concerns, then we will not need to move on to an in-depth investigation."

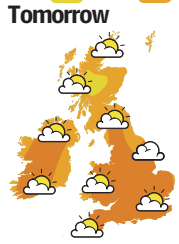
Weather
Friday 9 September 2022

UK and Ireland Noon today

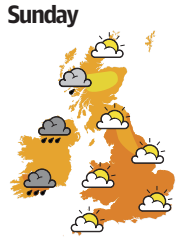


Forecast

Low 12 High 20
Tomorrow



Low 12 High 21
Sunday



Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO_2 readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

Latest	
06 Sep 2022	416.23
Weekly average	
28 Aug 2022	416.54
08 Sep 2021	412.83
08 Sep 2012	392.02
Pre-industrial base	*280*
Safe level	*350*

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK

London
Lows and highs 14 20 | Precipitation 80% | Air pollution Low

Manchester
12 20 | 80% | Low

Edinburgh
11 15 | 95% | Low

Belfast
10 18 | 40% | Low

Birmingham
12 19 | 80% | Low

Brighton
14 20 | 80% | Low

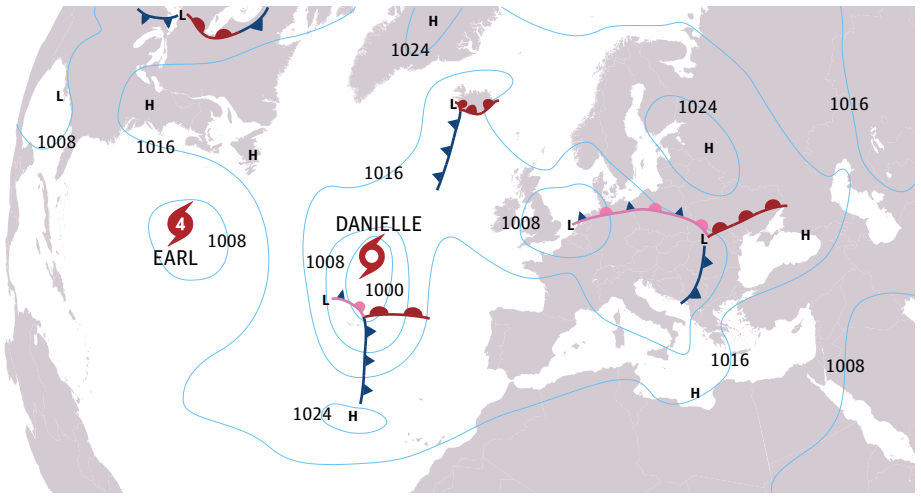
Bristol
14 19 | 90% | Low

Cardiff
14 20 | 90% | Low

Newcastle
13 18 | 90% | Low

Penzance
14 19 | 90% | Low

Atlantic front



Pollutionwatch

A new study of US cities has shown how the poorest people, and those from non-white communities, shoulder the greatest burden from air pollution.

Researchers used sensors mounted on satellites and aircraft to map nitrogen dioxide across 11 major cities. In New York and Newark, the poorest areas had around 26% greater air pollution than wealthier areas. In Los Angeles, Black, Hispanic and Asian communities in the lowest socioeconomic category experienced average pollution that was 38% greater than their non-Hispanic white counterparts.

Earlier research in the UK points to similar problems. Analysis of data from the early 2000s showed that ethnically diverse and poorer areas of England had the most air pollution. Research using data from 2001 to 2011 showed that areas with poorer households, and those with the highest proportion of children, experienced the greatest traffic pollution.

Furthermore, people in the poorest areas contributed least to the problems that they experience. Poor households emitted less air pollution compared with those in the wealthiest areas, and owned fewer cars. **Gary Fuller**

Around the world

Algiers	32	Lisbon	28
Ams'dam	18	Madrid	31
Athens	31	Malaga	29
Auckland	16	Melb'rne	20
B Aires	14	Mexico C	23
Bangkok	31	Miami	32
Barcelona	26	Milan	25
Basra	46	Mombasa	28
Beijing	31	Moscow	12
Berlin	22	Mumbai	31
Bermuda	30	N Orleans	29
Brussels	18	Nairobi	22
Budapest	26	New Delhi	36
C'hagen	18	New York	27
Cairo	34	Oslo	15
Cape Town	20	Paris	21
Chicago	29	Perth	18
Corfu	30	Prague	22
Dakar	29	Reykjavik	13
Dhaka	33	Rio de J	30
Dublin	18	Rome	29
Florence	28	Shanghai	28
Gibraltar	28	Singapore	29
H Kong	31	Stockh'm	15
Harare	27	Strasb'g	22
Helsinki	13	Sydney	21
Istanbul	27	Tel Aviv	32
Jo'burg	26	Tenerife	28
K Lumpur	32	Tokyo	28
K'mandu	27	Toronto	26
Kabul	30	Vancouv'r	22
Kingston	32	Vienna	25
Kolkata	33	Warsaw	16
L Angeles	37	Wash'ton	28
Lagos	30	Well'ton	13
Lima	17	Zurich	21

High tides

Source: © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Times are local UK times

Aberdeen	0058	4.2m	1342	4.3m	**London Bridge**	0130	6.8m	1400	6.7m
Avonmouth	0712	12.4m	1934	13.2m	**Lossiemouth**	--	--	1207	4.1m
Barrow	1131	8.8m	2345	9.4m	**Milford Haven**	0613	6.6m	1833	7.1m
Belfast	1109	3.3m	2323	3.6m	**Newquay**	0505	6.6m	1725	7.1m
Cobh	0517	3.8m	1743	4.1m	**North Shields**	0305	4.9m	1546	5.1m
Cromer	0618	4.9m	1906	5.0m	**Oban**	0608	3.6m	1819	4.2m
Dover	1115	6.5m	2347	6.6m	**Penzance**	0439	5.2m	1658	5.6m
Dublin	1149	3.9m	2348	4.2m	**Plymouth**	0547	5.1m	1801	5.5m
Galway	0507	4.9m	1721	5.3m	**Portsmouth**	1129	4.7m	2335	4.7m
Greenock	0005	3.3m	1240	3.3m	**Southport**	1051	8.7m	2304	9.2m
Harwich	--	--	1139	3.8m	**Stornoway**	0705	4.6m	1908	5.1m
Holyhead	1029	5.4m	2237	5.8m	**Weymouth**	0611	1.1m	1824	1.4m
Hull	0556	7.3m	1848	7.4m	**Whitby**	0340	5.4m	1619	5.5m
Leith	0211	5.4m	1449	5.6m	**Wick**	1134	3.4m	2337	3.6m
Liverpool	1116	9.0m	2329	9.5m	**Workington**	1136	7.9m	2350	8.4m

Sun & Moon



Sun rises	0625
Sun sets	1928
Moon rises	1938
Moon sets	0430
Full Moon	10 Sept

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather** ©2022

Lighting up

Belfast	1957 to 0648
Birm'ham	1937 to 0633
Brighton	1928 to 0628
Bristol	1939 to 0638
Carlisle	1944 to 0634
Cork	2003 to 0700
Dublin	1956 to 0650
Glasgow	1951 to 0640
Harlech	1946 to 0642
Inverness	1952 to 0636
London	1928 to 0627
M'chester	1940 to 0634
Newcastle	1939 to 0630
Norwich	1925 to 0620
Penzance	1949 to 0650

Rugby union
Robert Kitson's Premiership season preview
Page 44 →

Tennis
Alcaraz has eyes on US Open title after Sinner win
Page 45 →



Sport



▲ *Lauren Hemp signs autographs for young fans at England women's training at St George's Park*
ANNA GOWTHORPE/ SHUTTERSTOCK

Game changers

The review into women's football is for all of us – help me make it a success

Karen Carney



A few months ago I received an unexpected call, asking me to lead the government review into women's football. Despite it being such a great opportunity, it took me some time to say yes. Honestly, I had to think about it. I do not have experience in leading reviews of this nature, so I did my due diligence, spoke to those around me and asked some questions of people in the field.

I knew it would be a massive commitment but I came to the conclusion that it would be hypocritical for me to ask for investment in the game and then not step up to lead when asked.

I have witnessed first-hand the barriers facing girls in football. I came through from grassroots to international football and have seen every level in between. I owe it to those who have not had the same opportunities as I did to play the sport they love and to progress.

My sister Sarah introduced me to football. When she was at school the teachers came to ask whether any girls played football. She thought she was finally getting her chance, only to hear: "Great! You will be perfect to play in goal in field hockey because you can kick a ball." It always crushes me to think that was the attitude. She had to go to America for greater opportunities to coach football but returned to the UK.

She coached a local girls' team from under-10s to adult football. I saw her every week pick up the balls, pump them up, give out jobs, roles and responsibilities, play on the local pitches and teach her players life skills from a young age all the way up, and I thought: "I owe it to her." I witnessed the impact she had on her team and we need to make sure everyone has the same chance. It was a constant reminder of how important sport can be within the community.

This review will look into all aspects of the women's game. There are areas within football that are thriving, some that are surviving and others that are being ignored. There's no better time to do it. After the summer we've had with the Lionesses triumphing at the Euros, we've seen interest come into the game like never before. We cannot waste this moment.

Everyone always talks about ensuring a legacy from the Euros; we have to build the sport on strong foundations for future generations. We need to invest in the game and make sure we create the best environment for women and girls to play, watch, support and benefit from football.

The England team are not just doing great things on the pitch but also off it to highlight issues within society. With only 63% of young girls having access to football in physical education classes, I was proud to see the open letter from the Lionesses to the government advocating for change. It's so inspiring to see many people rally behind the game and we need to utilise this influence. It has been amazing to see people in the sport have a voice and use the platform for such positivity.

Tracey Crouch's fan-led review of football was opened up to everybody and I want to have the same approach. This review is for everyone. I want responses from fans, spectators, non-football lovers, businesses ... Every and any suggestion is welcome. The women's game is unique and so we need unique ideas to make it a success. I will be looking to speak to experts from different fields from healthcare to entertainment.

The most innovative companies are the most diverse of thought. This review has to think differently. My attitude is if we continue to do what we always have done nothing will change. We have to look at this with fresh eyes and innovation has to be at the forefront of that. It is really important to me that we look at all aspects of the business model and, taking lessons from the work I've done with businesses and from a recently completed MBA, I want to approach this strategically. That means using my experience not just on the field but off it as well, while learning from those around me.

We need to invest and create the best environment for women to play, watch, support and benefit from football

It is imperative to create a strong base and look at the workings of the grassroots but we will be reviewing the top, too. We will review everything from commercialisation to broadcasting, sponsorships, governance infrastructure, homegrown talents and sustainability. The overriding aim is what is best for women's football.

It is constantly on my mind and something I am really passionate about. The big thing for me is to bring people on this journey. We are all part of this team, regardless of gender. We need our male allies to be at the heart of this, too. This is a massive team; this is not about me, it is about what is right for the game. How do we create a sustainable legacy for the sport?

It is important to make this review count, for it to stand and mean something in order to make maximum impact. So if you are reading this and you want the women's game to get better, then you are part of this movement too.



Leicester celebrate the thrilling Premiership final victory against Saracens at Twickenham in June
SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES

Rugby must show its appealing side in watershed year

Financial woes and player welfare concerns abound but the game is a compelling spectacle when it all clicks

Robert Kitson

Every now and again on social media a video clip will emerge of a lonely surfer trying to catch a skyscraper-high wave off the coast of Portugal. Time it right and the long ride down is truly epic. Get it slightly wrong and the consequences of that misjudgment do not bear thinking about.

In many ways the 2022-23 Premiership season feels broadly similar. Increasingly there are jagged financial rocks everywhere and the game's physicality continues to make it unsuitable for the faint of heart.

But when everything clicks and talent is allowed to express itself few team sports are more watchable. Take a risk and the rewards can be significant.

Therein lies the shared challenge for all concerned as the new Premiership campaign hoves into view. Club rugby union has reached a point where, for assorted reasons, it badly needs to make a collective splash. Drifting around in the commercial shallows, not bothered if it catches the eye, is no longer enough.

While that does not mean razzle-dazzle rugby for the sake if it, it does require the game to do more to showcase its appealing side.

With a cost-of-living crisis looming, there is no avoiding reality: the product simply has to be entertaining enough to leave everyone clamouring for more.

If this does not obviously chime with Johann van Graan's plan to rebuild a damaged Bath one carefully laid breeze block at a time, the Bears' director of rugby, Pat Lam, is convinced that style also matters. "Winning is one thing but the way you play is just as important," he says. "The way we do things, the values of the game, the style of the game."

If there is nothing remotely uplifting on the field to balance the grim stories of concussion, poor ownership and abuse of officials, what is ultimately the point? There were blasts of genuine electricity last season, not least at Northampton, who were playing some scintillating stuff in the closing weeks of the campaign. Dave Walder, now in charge at Newcastle with Dean Richards having stepped aside, also wants the Falcons to spread their wings while Wasps, when injuries permit, can be as fun to watch as anyone.

London Irish are in the same bracket: had they won their five drawn matches last season they would have been in or around the playoffs. It also makes little sense not to give youthful talents such as Henry Arundell and Will Joseph a chance to shine. Front-foot rugby also suits Harlequins, at their best when Marcus Smith and Danny Care are whirling their batons, and a recharged Bristol, for whom the former Sale fly-half AJ MacGinty could be a shrewd signing.

Club rugby union has reached a point where it badly needs to make a collective splash

Playing it fast and loose is not compulsory, clearly, but Lam reckons there is a further reason why this year's league will be worth watching. "I think the season going into a World Cup is always the best because every player is motivated to go. The Premiership is home to players from many countries and all of them will be aiming to be at their best. It's the big dream for players – it was in our day and it still is. It makes the competition more exciting – and tougher."

The flipside is that no one can go all out for the next 14 months without resting at some stage. While Ellis Genge has been cleared to play in round one, desperate not to miss out on his Bristol homecoming, a number of England squad members will be unavailable for large chunks because of increased clashes with international weekends.

It means the Tigers, with Genge and George Ford both departed, will frequently have to soldier on without Freddie Steward, Ollie Chessum, Jack van Poortvliet and Ben Youngs, not to mention Wales's Tommy Reffell, South Africa's Jasper Wiese and Argentina's Julián Montoya, at various times.

Saracens, too, will be anxiously awaiting Eddie Jones's autumn squad selections. With Billy Vunipola now back in red rose favour alongside the club's usual posse of England candidates, their squad depth will be tested during the regular season.

Which leaves the door potentially ajar for one or two others to gatecrash the playoffs. Gloucester are still meant to be a year or two away from full maturation, with Zach Mercer not due back in the UK from Montpellier until next season. George Skivington is clearly a man with a plan, however, and the return of Jake Polledri from long-term injury is another bonus.

Add in the raw emotional edge generated by the popular Ed Slater's diagnosis with motor neurone disease and the Cherry and Whites, quoted at a generous 16-1, should improve on last season's fifth-placed finish.

The bookmakers rate Exeter, Sale and Quins as more likely champion material but all three face a battle merely to reach the playoffs as they seek to refresh now-familiar gameplans.

Worcester? Simply staying alive as a going concern has to be the overriding priority. Otherwise the murky crystal ball suggests Saracens, Gloucester, Leicester and Northampton as the playoff contenders to catch when the time comes to ride the tallest, most exhilarating waves next May.

Tennis

Alcaraz delivers total tennis in his quest for US Open

The extravagant 19-year-old paired his athleticism and shotmaking in an instant classic to reach the last four

Tumaini Carayol
Flushing Meadows



EDUARDO MUÑOZ/AP

The match carried the tension of a slam final – one day they will probably contest one

As Carlos Alcaraz sat down in the early hours of yesterday morning, time was running out and he knew it. In his short career, the 19-year-old has established a reputation for taking defeats with perspective and a smile on his face, but this time he had nothing. He had generated enough chances to win in straight sets and he had mostly played incredibly well, but never when it really mattered. He found himself down 4-3 in the fourth set to Jannik Sinner, two games from defeat.

His composure momentarily gone, Alcaraz spent the entire change of ends ranting towards his distinguished coach, Juan Carlos Ferrero, about the one weakness that had handcuffed him all night: "Where do I serve to? I don't know how to serve," he shouted. Ferrero did not respond.

Even by that point, it was an absurd match. Alcaraz and the 21-year-old Sinner had spent four hours utterly destroying the ball, flitting from side to side and using every inch of the court. Alcaraz's movement alone is unlike anything else in the world right now and he soaked up so much of Sinner's destructive power. But he pairs his athleticism with his own brutal shotmaking and his extravagant all-court style.

As usual, Alcaraz produced enough outrageous shots to fill several highlight reels. One time he slid into the splits while chasing down a ball, then fell, got up and calmly threaded a backhand down the line past Sinner. And that was not even his best point of the day. Not long after he somehow sweetly struck a behind-the-back shot, then slid into the forecourt and rolled a backhand passing-shot winner. He constantly orchestrated the crowd, which despite waning as the match wore on, chanted his name until the end.

In the face of Alcaraz's total tennis, Sinner was competitive for just under four long sets. He did not always serve well, but he sure did when he needed to. Down triple set point at 6-5 in the second set, he produced four unreturnable serves that Alcaraz could not touch. He has fewer layers to his game than Alcaraz, but he strikes the ball more cleanly and purely than anyone in the world right now. For most of the first four sets, Sinner attacked without hesitation anytime the moment required it.

As the match fell away from him, Alcaraz had completely lost his composure. His most impressive feat was how, in his very last stand, he regained it. He saved a match point on Sinner's serve, then forced a fifth set. Even with nearly five sets and hours in their legs, nobody broke down. Both players chased after the ball at full sprint until the very end, and Alcaraz had to snatch the win for himself.

In the end, it was a five hour 15 minute show of physical and mental excellence alongside the stratospheric level, with Alcaraz winning 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-7 (0), 7-5, 6-3. They finished at 2.50am, the latest ever finish at the US Open. After conducting his on-court interview, tossing his shoes into the crowd and then signing autographs for fans, Alcaraz finished his press duties at 3.40am. He surely did not sleep until hours later.

This was a moment particularly because of what had preceded it. Alcaraz spent much of this year breaking records as he broke through, winning titles for fun, beating Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic back to back, and rising to No 4 in the rankings. But during this summer the reality of being a top player struck.

He had an enormous target on his back and every young opponent seemed to rise up and play their best tennis the moment they saw him in the draw. Sinner himself has beaten Alcaraz twice over the past few months. Alcaraz has taken a lot of punches, but mostly taken them with a smile, content that at some point he would be in the position to punch back. He finally was.

The match carried the tension of a slam final, and one day this pair will probably contest one together. Now Alcaraz will contest his first grand slam semi-final. Ten hours earlier, Frances Tiafoe achieved the same feat with far less effort, beating Andrey Rublev in 7-6 (3), 7-6 (0), 6-4. "I just hope they play a marathon match, super-long match, and they get really tired come Friday," said Tiafoe, smiling, of Alcaraz and Sinner. His wish was granted.

Few sports in the world spend as much time obsessing over its relevance as tennis, with pundits and even players constantly debating whether certain players or events are "good for the game", particularly as the ageing legends begin to depart. But as a 19-year-old and 21-year-old produced an instant, undeniable classic, battling into the morning in the biggest tennis stadium in the world, it was an opportunity to sit back and be content with whatever is to come.

Catch up online
Semi-final reports of Caroline Garcia v Ons Jabeur and Iga Swiatek v Aryna Sabalenka
theguardian.com/sport

Golf

Fleetwood's class eclipsed by Poulter's clothing controversy

Ewan Murray
Wentworth

On a day when Tommy Fleetwood and Andy Sullivan turned heads with wonderful rounds of 64, Ian Poulter drew glances for his attire.

Keith Pelley, the European Tour Group's chief executive, had asked that LIV rebels competing at the PGA Championship did not wear clothing which advertises their new professional domain. Enter Poulter, whose left sleeve carried the logo of Majesticks, the LIV team he is part of.

"This is a business that I actually own part of, so it has a right to be there," insisted the Englishman. "I have had about six different sets of clothes in the last five weeks. I can't go to the embroiderers and have another set made up for this week. I am here for three weeks. I'm travelling, so this was the set I brought."

The mere appearance of Poulter and co back on the DP World Tour has drawn critical comment. The 46-year-old believes it should be possible to separate business disagreement from long-term friendships. Poulter also insists this tour's main sponsors want him on the premises.

"There's been a lot of petty comments and I'm not going to comment on them," he said. "I'm not going to play the clickbait game. I'm here to win and that's that." A three-under-par 69 represented a reasonable start.

Graeme McDowell, another LIV convert, made a call for common sense as opposed to legal wrangling after his 71. A February hearing will determine whether LIV golfers can remain a part of this tour after suspensions were stayed. "Does it have to happen in a court of law?" asked McDowell. "Let's send 326 emails out and maybe two videos – one from the LIV players saying we'd love to support this tour eight, 10, 12 times a year and then the other side of it is Keith Pelley's statement this week."

Rory McIlroy appeared slightly disappointed with his 68. The Northern Irishman shrugged off the proposal put forward by McDowell. "I didn't know he made the rules," McIlroy said. "At this point we just have to go by the book."

Fleetwood birdied the last four holes for a back nine of 31. Sullivan matched Fleetwood's inward half and total. The duo sit one clear of Matthew Jordan and two ahead of a group including Shane Lowry.

There will be no play today out of respect for the royal family. All flags at Wentworth will be lowered to half-mast, a statement from the PGA Championship said.



▲ *Ian Poulter insisted the Majesticks logo 'had a right to be' on his top*

Sport In brief

Motor racing

Hamilton dismisses talk of retirement in F1

Lewis Hamilton has insisted he has no plans on leaving Formula One in the near future after speculation that Mercedes were lining up Daniel Ricciardo as a potential replacement should the seven-time champion retire. Ricciardo would not confirm or deny he was in talks with Mercedes but admitted he was exploring all possible options. Two weeks ago McLaren announced they will replace Ricciardo with Oscar Piastri next season and the Australian's chances of gaining a seat in F1 for 2023-24 are limited.

Hamilton will turn 39 shortly after his current contract with Mercedes concludes at the end of next season and with the team off the pace this year, speculation has continued over whether he will race beyond 2023.

Yesterday morning it was reported that Mercedes did not want to risk being left short of a driver should Hamilton leave and that Ricciardo was under consideration to become Mercedes' reserve driver in 2023, ready to step into his shoes if required. Hamilton, who was sitting next to Ricciardo at the press conference before Sunday's Italian Grand Prix at Monza, dismissed suggestions he had plans to leave F1. "For years we have been going up and down with stories of retirement and stopping," he said. "I feel healthier than I have ever felt, I love what I am doing and I don't plan on stopping anytime soon." **Giles Richards**

Cycling

Evenepoel tightens grip on Vuelta with stage win

Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl's Remco Evenepoel hailed a "perfect day" at the Vuelta a España as he tightened his grip on the leader's red jersey, winning stage 18 with a late sprint to the top of the Alto de Piornal yesterday. "It's a perfect day, this was the most perfect day ever," Evenepoel said. "Winning on a mountain top in the red jersey is amazing. It was a tough stage and hard work at the end." **Reuters**

Klopp will tackle basic faults but no easy fix for malaise

Some elements of Liverpool's thrashing in Naples can be addressed quickly but side needs top players to fire again

Andy Hunter

It was approaching midnight when Jürgen Klopp found himself in one more unusual situation at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona. He had been on the receiving end of a hiding, had issued a rare public apology to Liverpool fans inside the stadium and now, uncharacteristically, he tried to fight the post-match adrenaline and keep his thoughts in check.

"I think it makes sense to watch the game back and try to understand so that I can give the right message for the boys," the Liverpool manager said as he digested a chastening defeat by Napoli. The admission that Liverpool needed to reinvent themselves after their troubled start to the season reached a nadir in Naples, however, meant he had already said enough.

When Klopp first issued the warning via BT Sport after the game it sounded ominously, dramatically, like a Liverpool manager calling time on a successful yet ageing team. But Bill Shankly in February 1970 this was not. Then, Shankly decided in the wake of an FA Cup defeat by second-division Watford that he had to "do my job and change the team". The Anfield days of Ian St John, Roger Hunt, Ron Yeats and Tommy Lawrence were numbered. Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino, Virgil van Dijk and Alisson are not in the same predicament today, despite performing in a more judgmental world typified on Wednesday by a journalist asking Klopp whether he feared a repeat of Thomas Tuchel's sacking at Chelsea.

The question, daft on so many levels, brought the final press conference of the night to a suitably disheartening close for Klopp. He had conducted several interviews by the time he sat down in the media room in the bowels of the stadium. He was therefore more composed, though still visibly angry, when asked to elaborate on the need for reinvention. The upshot was Liverpool must get back to defensive basics rather than reinvent football. "Basic things were not there," he explained. "It is a difficult period, no doubt about that, but if you are not playing exceptionally well you can still defend on a really high level. We should be able to do that but at the minute we are in between."

A squad of Liverpool's quality and experience should be able to get reacquainted with the basics quickly. Statistics suggest they competed reasonably well on Wednesday, having 15 attempts on goal to Napoli's 18, seven on target to Napoli's eight, 12 corners to Napoli's three and attempting 600 passes to Napoli's 391. Alisson made four saves to Alex Meret's six.

The statistics do not tell the story of a rout more emphatic than the final 4-1 scoreline, of Liverpool's failure to counter-press, to close the gaps, of too many individuals being out of form at the same time and the worryingly laboured nature of their performance. Nor of Napoli's excellence. "Mamma, what a Napoli" proclaimed the front page of La Gazzetta dello Sport. Corriere dello Sport went for a "Phenomenal Napoli" headline. Both entirely justified.

The introduction of the fit-again and desperately needed Thiago Alcântara restored a semblance of order to Liverpool's display in Naples, although the game had long gone by then and there may be no quick fix to Klopp's problems. Replacing Joe Gomez with Joël Matip against Wolves tomorrow is an easy call. Others will be more delicate for a game that has assumed major importance for Liverpool.



▲ *It was a bleak night in Naples for Jürgen Klopp and his players*

Salah's quiet start to the season deteriorated in Italy, where his poor first touch wasted several promising situations. Trent Alexander-Arnold did not disguise his disgust when picking out Salah unmarked inside the Napoli area only for his pinpoint cross to roll under the forward's foot and out for a goal-kick. It was the latest example this season of Liverpool players openly bickering, and an issue Van Dijk touched upon after the worst European performance of the Klopp era.

"We're not in the best shape, best situation, but we're going to make this right – that's the confidence I have," said the defender. "We need each other, we need to stick together – not only us as players but the whole club. Stick together, don't point fingers. Everyone knows that everyone can do better. We're not robots, we're trying to perform and you can have bad moments. It's how you deal with them and now we'll have a good look at what happened together, speak with each other and focus on the game ahead of us.

"It can change, definitely. It starts on Saturday with a good opportunity against a good side, so we'll give everything. The key is to be together. We need everyone. If you start blaming others and don't look at yourself or create negativity around the club, then you're not getting out of this. I'm fully confident that we'll turn this around together."

Results and cricket scoreboard

Football

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A

FC Zürich (1) **1** — **Arsenal** (1) **2**
Kryeziu 44pen — Marquinhos 16, Nketiah 62

PSV Eindhoven 1 Bodø/Glimt 1

Group B

AEK Larnaca 1 Rennes 2; Fenerbahce 2 Dynamo Kyiv 1

Group C

HJK Helsinki 0 Real Betis 2; Ludogorets Razgrad 2 Roma 1

Group D

Malmö 0 Braga 2; Union Berlin 0 Union St-Gilloise 1

Group E

Manchester Utd (0) **0** — **Real Sociedad** (0) **1**
Méndez 59pen

Omonia Nicosia L Sherrif Tiraspol L

Group F

Lazio 4 Feyenoord 2; Sturm Graz 1 Midtjylland 0

Group G

Freiburg 2 Qarabag 1; Nantes 2 Olympiakos 1

Group H

Ferencvaros 3 Trabzonspor 2; Red Star Belgrade 0 Monaco 1

UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE

Group A

Hearts (0) **0** — **Istanbul Basaksehir** (1) **4**
Ali Kaldirim 26, Ndayishimiye 67, Kingsley 75og, Ozcan 82

Fiorentina 1 FS Riga 1

Group B

West Ham (0) **3** — **Steaua Bucharest** (1) **1**
Bowen 69pen, Palmieri 74, Antonio 90 — Cordea 34

Anderlecht 1 Silkeborg 0

Group C

Austria Vienna 0 Hapoel Be'er Sheva 0; Villarreal 4 Lech Poznan 3

Group D

Nice 1 Cologne 1; Slovacko 3 Partizan Belgrade 3

Group E

Dnipro-1 0 AZ Alkmaar 1; Vaduz 0 Apollon Limassol 0

Group F

Shamrock Rovers (0) **0** — **Djugårdens** (0) **0**

Molde 0 Gent 0

Group G

Ballkani 1 Cluj 1; Sivasspor 1 Slavia Prague 1

Group H

Basel 3 Pyunik 1; Slovan Bratislava 0 Zalgiris 0

Rugby union

PREMIERSHIP CUP

Pool stage Northampton P Saracens P

Cricket

THIRD TEST (first day of five)

The Oval England v South Africa.No play yesterday; rain.

SECOND ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

Cairns Australia 195-9 (SPD Smith 61; TA Boult 4-38). New Zealand 82 (A Zampa 5-35). Australia beat New Zealand by 113 runs and lead three-match series 2-0.

ASIA CUP

Super Four Dubai (DSC) India 212-2 (V Kohli 122no; KL Rahul 62). Afghanistan 111-8 (Ibrahim Zadran 64no; B Kumar 5-4). India beat Afghanistan by 101 runs.

THIRD WOMEN'S T20 INTERNATIONAL

The Grange Scotland v Ireland. Match abandoned; rain. Ireland win series 2-0.

SECOND UNDER-19 ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

New Road Sri Lanka 211-6 (R Somarathne 81; H Amarasinghe 71). England 202-6 (GW Thomas 86). England beat Sri Lanka by seven runs (DLS Method).

LV= INSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Division One (final day of four)

Hampshire v Northamptonshire

Ageas Bowl Hampshire (24pts) beat Northamptonshire (3) by an innings and four runs.

Hampshire First innings 400-9 dec (AHT Donald 94, FS Organ 71; KJ Abbott 57no).

Northamptonshire First innings 175 (KJ Abbott 4-52).

Northamptonshire Second innings (following on; overnight 153-3)

JJ Cobb lbw b Mohammad Abbas 22
RI Keogh lbw b Barker 14
†RS Vasconcelos lbw b Barker 20
JJG Sales c Vince b Mohammad Abbas 3
TAI Taylor c Donald b Mohammad Abbas 11
LB Williams not out 4
BW Sanderson b Mohammad Abbas 2
CJ White b Fuller 0
Extras (b7, lb9, w6, nb10) 32
Total (70.3 overs) 221

Fall cont 161, 177, 181, 208, 210, 218.

Bowling Barker 22-5-63-3; Abbott 4-2-15-0; Fuller 14.3-3-46-2; Holland 7-2-29-1; Mohammad Abbas 17-5-32-4; Dawson 6-0-20-0.

Kent v Essex

Canterbury Essex (23pts) beat Kent (1) by an innings and 260 runs.

Essex First innings 573 (FIN Khushi 164, MJJ Critchley 90, AN Cook 78, T Westley 54; BMJ Allison 53).

Kent First innings 164 (BMJ Allison 4-40).

Kent Second innings (following on; overnight 137-8)

JM Cox c Critchley b Porter 65
ME Milnes c Browne b SJ Cook 12
MR Quinn not out 0
Extras (lb2, w4, nb4) 10
Total (62.4 overs) 149

Fall cont 137.

Bowling Porter 14.4-3-50-3; SJ Cook 19-9-33-7; Snater 14-5-27-0; Allison 8-1-20-0; Critchley 7-3-17-0.

Lancashire v Yorkshire

Old Trafford Lancashire (13pts) drew with Yorkshire (13).

Lancashire First innings 276 (KK Jennings 119, LWP Wells 84; GCH Hill 6-26).

Yorkshire First innings 255 (TE Bailey 4-56).

Lancashire Second innings (overnight 203-3).

SJ Croft not out 45
***DJ Vilas** b Bess 28
†GID Lavelle c Fraine b Tattersall 1
GP Balderson not out 7
Extras (lb1, w1) 2
Total (for 5 dec, 43 overs) 280

Fall cont 259, 260. **Did not bat** TW Hartley, WSA Williams, TE Bailey, MW Parkinson.

Bowling Coad 8-0-48-0; Thompson 5-0-40-0; Patterson 7-0-36-0; Bess 13-1-84-3; Waite 3-0-22-0; Hill 3-0-22-0; Tattersall 4-0-27-2.

Yorkshire second innings

A Lyth c Bohannon b Williams 5
FJ Bean c Lavelle b Hartley 25
GCH Hill c Vilas b Hartley 6
T Kohler-Cadmore not out 34
WAR Fraine not out 18
Extras (b7, lb5, w2) 14
Total (for 3, 63.2 overs) 102

Fall 15, 26, 67. **Did not bat** MJ Waite, *†JA Tattersall, DM Bess, JA Thompson, BO Coad, SA Patterson.

Bowling Bailey 14-5-23-0; Williams 12.2-6-9-1; Balderson 3-1-4-0; Hartley 18-9-27-2; Parkinson 16-5-27-0.

Somerset v Gloucestershire

Taunton Somerset (12pts) drew with Gloucestershire (14).

Gloucestershire First innings 343 (MS Harris 159, BG Charlesworth 56, OJ Price 52; L Gregory 4-62).

Somerset First innings 248 (Imam-ul-Haq 90; TJ Price 5-75).

Gloucestershire Second innings (overnight 246-5)

***GL van Buuren** c Brooks b Davey 19
JMR Taylor c Abell b Brooks 11
TJ Price not out 8
DA Payne not out 17
Extras (b8, nb14) 22
Total (for 7 dec, 96 overs) 279

Fall cont 246, 254. **Did not bat** J Shaw, AS Dale.

Bowling Gregory 13-2-59-0; Davey 14-5-42-2; Brooks 13-3-41-1; Sajid Khan 34-9-69-2; Aldridge 12-0-46-1; Lammonby 10-3-14-1.

Somerset Second innings

TA Lammonby not out 6
Imam-ul-Haq not out 5
Extras 0
Total (for 0, 3.5 overs) 11

Did not bat *TB Abell, GA Bartlett, LP Goldsworthy, †JEK Rew, L Gregory, KL Aldridge, JH Davey, Sajid Khan, JA Brooks.

Bowling Payne 2-0-7-0; Dale 1.5-0-4-0.

	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bowl	Pts
Hampshire	12	9	2	1	34	33	217
Surrey	11	7	0	4	39	26	209
Lancashire	12	5	1	6	27	33	188
Essex	11	5	2	4	21	25	158
Northants	11	2	3	6	26	27	133
Yorkshire	11	1	3	7	33	26	129
Kent	12	2	5	5	25	21	115
Somerset	11	2	5	4	23	24	111
Warwickshire	11	1	5	5	22	27	104
Gloucestershire	12	0	8	4	24	23	74

Division Two (final day of four)

Derbyshire v Durham

Derby Derbyshire(14pts) drew with Durham (12).

Derbyshire First innings 306 (JL du Plooy 82, HRC Came 78, AK Dal 56).

Durham First innings 223 (MA Jones 87; S Conners 4-55).

Derbyshire Second innings (overnight 185-7)

AK Dal b Raine 28
BW Aitchison not out 25
NJ Potts c Dickson b Raine 1
Extras (b1, lb1, nb2) 4
Total (for 9 dec, 79 overs) 214

Fall cont 212, 214. **Did not bat** S Conners.

Bowling Rushworth 3-0-12-0; Raine 22-5-43-5; Gibson 10-2-25-0; Coughlin 13-3-34-1; Trevaskis 27-4-81-3; Borthwick 4-0-17-0.

Durham Second innings

MA Jones b Aitchison 24
SR Dickson b Dal 18
***SG Borthwick** b Conners 16
NJ Maddinson c Guest b Watt 32
JJ Bushnell c Madsen b Watt 9
L Trevaskis not out 42
P Coughlin not out 19
Extras (b4, lb6, nb6) 16
Total (for 5, 53 overs) 176

Fall 26, 53, 81, 103, 106. **Did not bat** †TSS Mackintosh, BA Raine, OJ Gibson, C Rushworth.

Bowling Aitchison 14-2-43-1; Potts 4-2-17-0; Conners 11-1-43-1; Dal 8-2-13-1; Watt 13-5-37-2; Came 3-1-13-0.

Glamorgan v Worcestershire

Sophia Gardens Worcestershire (14pts) drew with Glamorgan (12).

Worcestershire First innings 454-9 dec (GH Roderick 172no, EG Barnard 75, J Leach 87; EJ Pollock 54).

Glamorgan First innings (overnight 241-8)

†CB Cooke not out 51
AY Patel c Cox b Gibbon 10
MG Hogan c Haynes b Pennington 12
Extras (b1, lb2, nb8) 11
Total (85.3 overs) 295

Fall cont 268.

Bowling Leach 19-2-63-1; Gibbon 22-3-87-4; Pennington 22.3-3-78-4; Barnard 16-3-45-1; D'Oliveira 4-1-9-0; Libby 2-0-10-0.

Glamorgan Second innings (following on)

***DL Lloyd** not out 4
EJ Byrom not out 0
Extras (b1) 1
Total (for 0, 1.3 overs) 5

Did not bat S Gill, SA Northeast, KS Carlson, WT Root, †CB Cooke, AY Patel, T van der Gugten, JAR Harris, MG Hogan.

Bowling Leach 1-0-4-0; Pennington 0.3-0-0-0.

	P	W	L	D	Bat	Bowl	Pts
Nottinghamshire	12	7	1	4	41	34	215
Glamorgan	11	5	2	4	32	28	172
Derbyshire	12	3	2	7	33	32	169
Middlesex	11	4	2	5	34	27	165
Worcestershire	11	3	3	5	28	28	144
Durham	11	1	2	8	33	25	137
Sussex	11	1	5	5	32	23	105
Leicestershire	11	0	7	4	22	22	75

Golf

BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP (Wentworth)

Leading first-round scores (GB/Ire unless stated)
64 V Hovland (Nor); T Fleetwood; A Sullivan. **65** M Jordan. **66** S Lowry; M Armitage; J Scrivener (Aus); F Zanotti (Par). **67** D Law. **68** R McIlroy; B Horschel (US); A Ancer (Mex); K Kitayama (US); B Wiesberger (Aut); R Cabrera (Sp); S Valimaki (Fin); J Veerman (US); G Migliozzi (It); M Kawamura (Jpn); J Morrison; M Pavon (Fr); S Kjeldsen (Den). **69** M Fitzpatrick; T Hatton; A Scott (Aus); T Pieters (Bel); L Herbert (Aus); H Long (Ger); F Molinari (It); C Shinkwin; P Larrazábal (Sp); G Forrest; D Gavins; A Rozner (Fr); K Krogh Johannessen (Nor); I Poulter; A Otaegui (Sp); M Antcliff (Aus); J Guerrier (Fr); C Syme; S Jamieson; M Warren; R Langasque (Fr); V Dubuisson (Fr); D Drysdale; J Brun (Fr); O Bekker (SA). **71** D Willett; R Ramsay; E Ferguson; N Højgaard (Den); G McDowell; N Colsaerts (Bel); S Norris (SA); B Grace (SA); T Björn (Den); R MacIntyre; F Laporta (It); J Lagergren (Swe); W Besseling (Neth); M Helligkilde (Den). **72** G Hutcheon; E Molinari (It); D Horsey; J Senior; M Wallace; R Karlberg (Swe); A Cañizares (Sp); R Sterne (SA); T Jaidee (Tha).

WOMEN'S SWISS OPEN (Holzhäusern)

Leading first-round scores (GB/Ire unless stated)
65 C Wolf (Aut); L Grant (Swe). **67** R Davies; A Drall (Ind); L Dittrich (Ger); K Kukkonen (Fin). **68** U Wikström (Fin); E Young; L Colombotto Rosso (It); A-L Caudel (Fr); B Morgan; K Henry; C Liautier (Fr); N Dlamini (Esw); A Fösterling (Ger). **69** M De Roey (Bel); S Bringner (Swe); C Williams; S Sønderby (Den); M Haddioui (Mor); G Oboh (Ngr); A Swayne (US); M Folke (Swe); A Dimmock; M Prat (Sp). **70** C Wannasaen (Tha); P Babnik (Svn); A Sauzon (Fr); D Dagar (Ind); M Leander (Swe); V Elena Carta (It); L-A Pace (SA); V Kapoor (Ind); V Gimmy (Ger). **71** E Colombo (Swi); N Nadaud (Fr); M Skarpnord (Nor); M Hernández (Sp); F Johnson; N Komulainen (Fin); E Arvidsson (Swe); H Davis; SL Bregman (SA); H MacGarvie; T Melecka (Cz); G Blackman; I Deilert (Swe); L Osala (Fin); P Sanz (Sp). **72** E Moosmann (Swi); E Spitz (Aut); T Koivisto (Fin); T Malik (Ind); G Cowley; E Grechi (Fr); H Burke; G MacDonald; N Pegova (Rus); J Nyqvist (Swe); L Gómez (Sp); E Folch (Sp); H Kreuzer (Ger); M Pérez (Sp); E Peronnin (Fr).

Tennis

US OPEN (Flushing Meadows, New York)

Men: Singles: Quarter-finals: C ALCARAZ (Sp, 3) bt J SINNER (It, 11) 6-3 6-7 (7-9) 6-7 (0-7) 7-5 6-3.
Doubles: Semi-finals: R RAM & J SALISBURY (US/GB, 1) bt J CABAL & R FARAH (Col) 7-5 4-6 7-6 (10-6).

Women: Singles: Quarter-finals: I SWIATEK (Pol, 1) bt J PEGULA (US, 8) 6-3 7-6 (7-4).
Doubles: Quarter-finals: T Townsend & C McNally (US) bt D SCHUURS & DKRAWCZYK (Neth/US, 6) 6-3 6-1; **S SANDERS & C DOLEHIDE** (Aus/US, 12) bt C GARCIA & K MLADENOVIC (Fr, 14)6-3 6-3; **K SINIAKOVA & B KREJCIKOVA** (Cz, 3) bt G OLMOS & G DABROWSKI (Mex/Can, 5) 6-3 6-7 (4-7) 6-3.

Mixed doubles: Quarter-finals: W Blumberg & C McNally (US) bt D Vega Hernández & J Ostapenko (Lat/Sp) 7-6 (10-8) 6-2; **K Flipkens & É Roger-Vasselin** (Bel/Fr) bt ZHANG S & M PAVIC (Chn/Cro, 2) 6-4 5-7 10-6; **S SANDERS & J PEERS** (Aus, 4) bt L Fernandez & J Sock (Can/US) 7-6 7-6 (7-3).

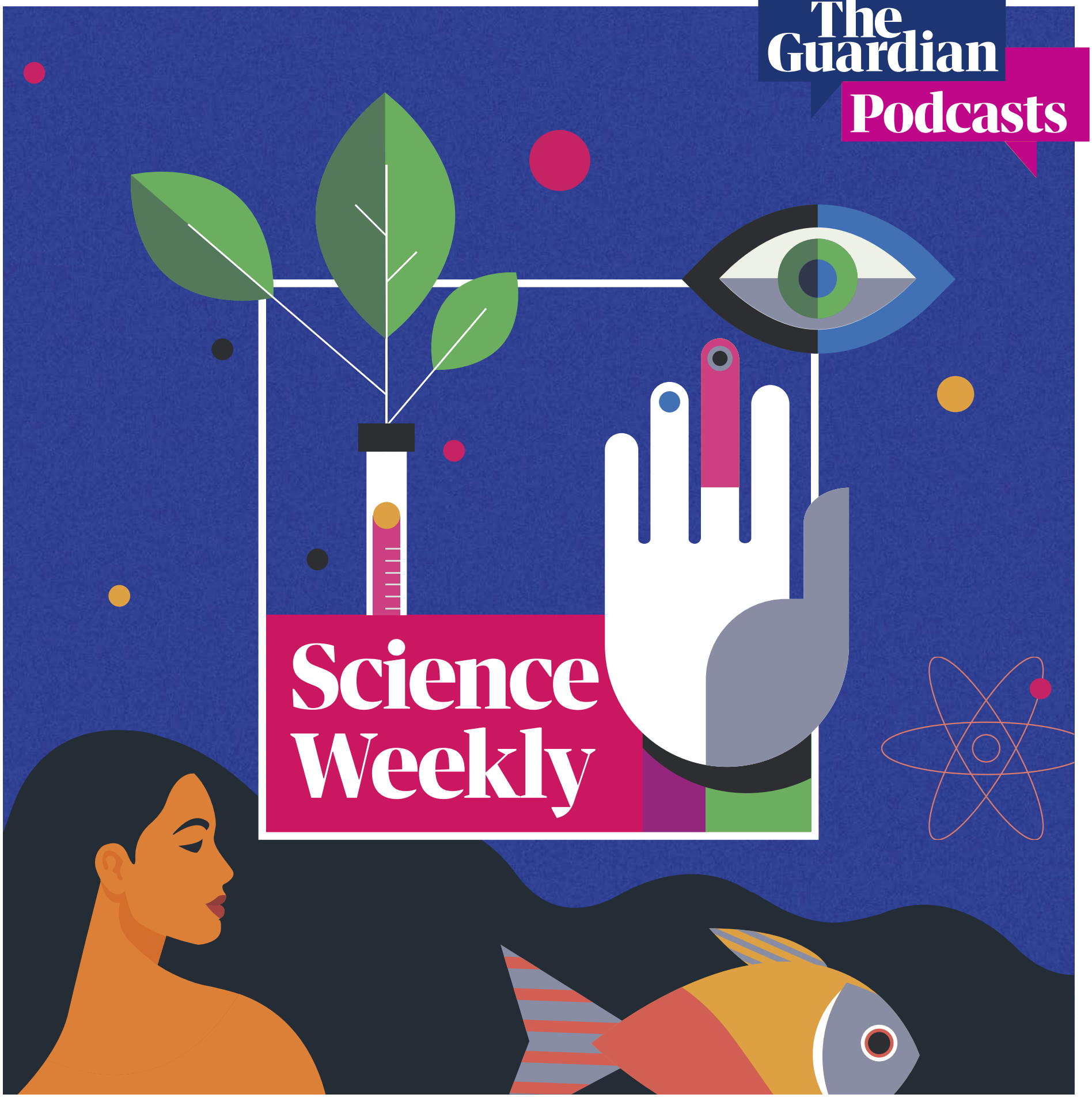
Cycling

TOUR OF BRITAIN

Stage five (West Bridgford – Mansfield; 186.8km) **1** J Meeus (Bel) BORA-Hansgrohe 4hr 21min 46sec; **2** S Aniolkowski (Pol) Bingoal Pauwels Sauces WB; **3** T Pidcock (GB) Ineos Grenadiers; **4** S Watson (GB) Great Britain; **5** A Van Poucke (Bel) Vlaanderen-Baloise; **6** N Parisini (It) Qhubeka; **7** M Marcellusi (It) Bardiani CSF Faizane; **8** F Fiorelli (It) Bardiani CSF Faizane all s/t.
General classification: 1 G Serrano (Sp) Movistar 20hr 53min 01sec; **2** T Pidcock (GB) Ineos Grenadiers +0:03; **3** O Fraile (Sp) Ineos Grenadiers +0:07; **4** B Perry (Can) WiV SunGod s/t; **5** D Teuns (Bel) Premier Tech +0:10; **6** C Strong (NZ) Premier Tech +0:14; **6** C Strong (NZ) Premier Tech +0:14; **7** M Paasschens (Neth) Bingoal Pauwels Sauces WB +0:17.

VUELTA A ESPAÑA

Stage 18 (Trujillo – Alto del Piornal; 191.7km) **1** R Evenepoel (Bel) Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl 4hr 45min 17sec; **2** E Mas (Sp) Movistar +0:02; **3** R Gesink (Neth) Jumbo-Visma s/t; **4** J Hindley (Aus) Bora-Hansgrohe +0:13; **5** T Arensman (Neth) DSM; **6** T Pinot (Fr) Groupama-FDJ; **7** B O'Connor (Aus) AG2R Citroën; **8** J Ayuso (Sp) Team Emirates all s/t.
General classification: 1 R Evenepoel (Bel) Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl 69hr 59 min 12sec; **2** E Mas (Sp) Movistar +2:07; **3** J Ayuso (Sp) Team Emirates +5:14; **4** MÁ López (Col) Astana Qazaqstan +5:56; **5** C Rodríguez (Sp) Ineos Grenadiers +6:49; **6** J Almeida (Por) Team Emirates +7:14; **7** T Arensman (Neth) DSM +8:09; **8** B O'Connor (Aus) AG2R Citroën +9:34.



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United undone by Méndez penalty in campaign opener

Manchester United 0

Real Sociedad 1

Méndez 59pen

Jamie Jackson
Old Trafford



▲ *Brais Méndez guides his penalty home for Real Sociedad's winner*
DAVE THOMPSON/AP

Football was an obvious irrelevance after the evening's news but, once Uefa ruled the game should go ahead, Manchester United duly fulfilled their Europa League fixture against Real Sociedad.

The death of Queen Elizabeth II threw a veil of sorrow over Old Trafford and a heartfelt tribute before kick-off brought those present together in a minute's silence in respect to the monarch. The players and officials wore black armbands, the flags over the stadium flew at half-mast, pitch-side advertising hoardings were turned off, and United issued a statement that offered condolences and gratitude for the monarch's "immense contribution to public life".

Once the game got under way, Erik ten Hag's side ended with a first ever defeat to the Spanish club and first in five matches because of a controversial second-half Sociedad penalty, so United are already playing catch-up in the group stage.

A full-pelt charge by Antony that ranged from Sociedad territory to near his right corner flag and which closed down Takefusa Kubo was United's highlight of a concerning opening half when defending. Their visitors were hardly more robust in the department as Alejandro Remiro's drop of a high Casemiro ball – he bumped into Aritz Elustondo – signalled a similar shakiness from them.

Against opponents United eliminated at the last-32 stage two years ago Ten Hag had recalled Harry Maguire and Cristiano Ronaldo, while Victor Lindelöf made his first start of the season and Casemiro his first for the club. Sociedad had David Silva, arguably the finest footballer of Sheikh Mansour's Manchester City ownership during a decade there, operating as a floating No 10 but it was United's chief conductor, Christian Eriksen, who dominated before the break.

One pass from the classy Dane had Anthony Elanga haring along the left. Another was chipped at Ronaldo, who marginally failed to connect. When Eriksen fed Elanga again a burst took him past Andoni Gorosabel and a corner was claimed. When it was swung in, Diogo Dalot and Maguire each somehow missed testing Remiro from close range. Eriksen then engineered a bewitching dummy-then-tap to Ronaldo who cursed himself after failing to finish.

Imanol Alguacil's side, though, posed their own questions of United's flaky rearguard. Clearances from Lindelöf and Maguire did not convince and the nutmeg of Casemiro by the visiting left-back, Aihen Muñoz, in an advanced position was not part of the defensive shield's job description.

For the second half Lisandro Martínez replaced Dalot and Bruno Fernandes was introduced for Eriksen. The Portuguese soon hung up a ball for Ronaldo, but he spurned a chance to put United ahead. Moments later the 37-year-old, yet to score this season, blazed over from 20 yards.

United had not been this fragmented since their opening two defeats, appearing a unit still to be drilled in the Ten Hag way, not one that had won their last four outings.

Alexander Sørloth should have punished the latest slipshod United defending but a wild header was no surprise given the quality thus far.

Now, though, came the questionable penalty decision from Marco Di Bello. Silva pulled the trigger and the ball struck Martínez on a leg then deflected on to an arm. VAR did not advise the referee to look again and Brais Méndez beat David de Gea to the latter's left. Casemiro headed off target from a Fernandes cross as United continued to frustrate.

For the closing phase Ten Hag brought on Alejandro Garnacho and Jadon Sancho but still United lacked fluidity. After Charlie McNeill was give a debut – in place of Tyrell Malacia – Sancho's lack of composure from near-in when he should have equalised summed United up.

Yet if at the final whistle they had lost a football match, this was a sombre night on which the result really did not matter.

Manchester United	Real Sociedad
4-2-1-3	**4-3-1-2**
De Gea; Dalot (Martínez ht), Maguire, Lindelöf, Malacia (McNeil 84); Casemiro, Eriksen (Fernandes ht); Fred; Antony (Sancho 71), Ronaldo, Elanga (Garnacho 71)	Remiro; Gorosabel (Sola 84), Elustondo, Pacheco, Muñoz; Méndez (Turrientes 84), Zubimendi, Merino; Silva (Cho 65); Sadiq (Sørloth ht), Kubo (Barrenetxea 78)

Referee Marco Di Bello (It)

Marquinhos shines as Nketiah strike beats Zürich

Zürich 1

Kryeziu 44pen

Arsenal 2

Marquinhos 16, Nketiah 62

Nick Ames
Kybunpark, St Gallen

Arsenal's return to Europe passed smoothly in a game that will take a strange, unwanted place in history. A minute's silence cannot have been conducted before too many other second halves but before the restart both sides' players linked arms and stood around the centre circle to commemorate the Queen, news of her death having broken at the end of the opening period.

A section of the away support had already performed a rendition of the national anthem and the stadium staff had, to their credit, reacted quickly to show an image of the monarch on the big screens at both ends along with words of condolence.

Mikel Arteta will be pleased with how Arsenal handled their task against a limited FC Zürich and especially enthused by a revelatory debut from Marquinhos. The Brazilian winger, 19, scored their first and, after Mirlind Kryeziu had equalised with a penalty, created the winner for Eddie Nketiah.

What a moment the opener was for Marquinhos, who Arsenal had resisted loaning out after his arrival from São Paulo. He was visibly emotional after scoring. Nketiah had been released down the left by Fábio Vieira, who was making his first start. His delivery was deliciously weighted and converted with a right-footed finish into the top corner.

Marquinhos had already shown an end product, cutting on to his left foot four minutes previously and finding Gabriel Martinelli. The resulting header was wayward but Zürich were unable to heed the warning. In the period after conceding they found any kind of possession a luxury; Arsenal were dominant and Vieira, pulling the strings, lobbed on to the roof of the net. Granit Xhaka, loudly booed due to his Basel roots, saw a shot tipped wide by Yanick Brecher.



▲ *Eddie Nketiah's goal was his first in seven appearances this season*

The Swiss champions, playing 40 miles from home due to a double-booking with a Diamond League athletics meeting, were vociferously backed but offered modest opposition. Another Arsenal debutant, the goalkeeper Matt Turner, had given them a leg-up early on by presenting the ball to Tosin Aiyegun but the forward struck a post from an angle.

They began to threaten sporadically before the interval, Kieran Tierney throwing himself at Ole Selnæs's shot, but it was still a surprise when they levelled. They had Nketiah to thank for a striker's challenge on Fidan Aliti. It was a rash tackle and an indisputable penalty. One Kosovan defender had been fouled; another, Kryeziu, beat Turner.

Arsenal's support were unimpressed by the hum in the home end during the minute of reflection and made their feelings clear. They then watched their team rediscover their dominance, Martinelli seeing a shot headed away by Kryeziu. Just after the hour Martinelli hooked a difficult volley over and Zürich, whose response was a speculative attempt by Aiyegun to surprise Turner, were hanging on.

Not for long. By now another Arsenal goal was inevitable and Nketiah will have been relieved to atone for his error. It was Marquinhos, showing shades of Bukayo Saka in his ability to maraud inside and deliver accurately, who picked him out and the far-post header was planted firmly past Brecher. Their hosts huffed and puffed in response but had no answer this time.

Zürich	Arsenal
4-1-4-1	**4-2-3-1**
Brecher; Boranijasevic, Kamberi, Kryeziu, Aliti; Selnæs; Okita (Avdijaj 80), Dzemaili (Conde 67), Krasniqi (Marchesano 67), Guerrero (Rohner 67); Aiyegun (Santini 80)	Turner; Tomiyasu, Holding, Gabriel, Tierney (Zinchenko 69); Sambi Lokonga, Xhaka; Marquinhos (Saka 69), Vieira (Ødegaard 69), Martinelli; Nketiah (Jesus 78)

Referee Mohammed al-Hakim (Swe)



European roundup

Roma defeated by Ludogorets as West Ham grab win over FCSB

Luke McLaughlin *and agencies*

Roma's Europa League campaign got off to a poor start in Bulgaria last night when José Mourinho's side were beaten 2-1 by **Ludogorets**.

The Brazilian midfielder Cauly opened the scoring with 18 minutes left to play in Bulgaria. Eldor Shomurdorov equalised for the Serie A side four minutes from time only for Nonato, another Brazilian, to score the winner for the hosts two minutes later.

The result rounds off a worrying few days for Mourinho's side, who won the Europa Conference League last season, after they were defeated 4-0 away by Udinese in their domestic league last Sunday.

In Group C's other match, **Real Betis** claimed a 2-0 win at **HJK Helsinki** thanks to a double by the Brazilian Willian José.

In the Europa Conference League, **West Ham** came from behind to beat the Romanian team **FCSB** 3-1. Andrei Cordea gave the visitors the lead on 34 minutes before Jarrod Bowen equalised with a penalty on 69 minutes. Emerson Palmieri (📷 *above*) put West Ham ahead with 15 minutes left before Michail Antonio made the points safe. In the other Group B match, **Anderlecht** began with a 1-0 win against the Danish side **Silkeborg**.

The Europa Conference League game between **Nice** and **Cologne** was delayed after crowd trouble erupted in the stands at the Allianz Riviera. Uefa said the match was "delayed due to crowd disturbance" after TV footage showed fans of the German team making their way towards home fans and throwing flares.

Police intervened but the players had not started warming up shortly before the scheduled 6.45pm local time kick-off.

The Cologne captain, Jonas Hector, addressed the crowd, saying: "We really want to play the game with you. We also want that game to take place. But we have to say that we do not like to see this.

"We worked damn hard last year and in the playoff. And we would very much like to do this with you and we ask you to keep calm and support us as much as possible."

The Group D match ended 1-1 after Steffen Tigges gave Cologne the lead in the 19th minute before Andy Delort levelled from the penalty spot on 62 minutes.



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The Guardian

Potter's move proves money always trumps cleverness

Chelsea's ability to lure the Brighton manager from the well-run club shows modern football's meaty fist of capital

Jonathan Wilson



There are times when the modern global obsession with football feels exhausting. Why do so many people from so many places care so much? What is it that drives the endless banter, the Ronaldo fundamentalists, the conspiracy theories over the preponderance of referees from the north-west? Why is this the focus rather than the apparently more pressing concerns of a mounting energy crisis, soaring inflation and a worrying new prime minister? Why are we more bothered by Erik ten Hag compromising his Ajax principles than by the tactics of the Ukrainian counteroffensive?

And then you get weeks like this when you realise that the Premier League is the greatest drama ever written. And like the best literature, it contains multitudes. On the one hand, there is the warning. Poor Brighton. You're one of the very few clubs not owned by a hedge fund, a public investment fund, a sheikh, an oligarch or a tax exile. You're owned by a local boy made good, a childhood fan. You graft for years. You put plans in place. You establish an astute recruitment department. You find an innovative and understated manager who fits your model. You impress but for one thing: you don't convert your chances.

Then suddenly you crack it. You win at Old Trafford for the first time in your history. You're compact and well-organised. You put five past Leicester. You sit fourth in the table. You're two points off the top. You know it probably won't happen, but this is a strange season. The calendar is absurdly compressed. You're not involved in European competition. Not that many of your players will be involved in the World Cup that will interrupt the season. It's not likely but maybe ... maybe there's a chance of reaching the Europa League, the Champions League, perhaps even a tiny possibility of repeating the glorious freak of Leicester ...

Blam!

Down comes the meaty fist of capital. Never bother dreaming. This is not the 60s, when Alf Ramsey could lead Ipswich to the title. It's not the 70s, when Brian Clough could win the league with Derby and Nottingham Forest. It's not even the 80s, when Graham Taylor could take Watford to second. It's modernity, when the slightest sign of promise must be gobbled up by the super-rich.

You can't blame Graham Potter for joining Chelsea, any more than you could blame Marc Cucurella for going in the summer, or Yves Bissouma for joining Tottenham. There is a clear ladder and if you want to win trophies you have to climb it; just as Potter climbed the ladder by leaving Swansea for Brighton. But it is depressing when the moral of the story is that no matter how smart you are, football is a world in which money will always trump cleverness.

It's modernity, when the slightest sign of promise must be gobbled up by the super-rich

Brighton are an example of how a club can be successfully run without regular splurges. They have not merely coped with the loss of Cucurella and Bissouma but are thriving. They almost certainly will have anticipated losing Potter and will have a contingency ready. But still, momentum has been checked. It will take a new manager, however gifted, time to familiarise himself. What might have been the greatest season in the club's history has been checked after six games.

This, the warning comes, is what happens if you get above your station. But this is not some grim morality tale. The Premier League is multilayered. From the Chelsea angle, this looks like some grand *opéra bouffe*. Is Todd Boehly, the college wrestler with his long hair and sunglasses, a little too on the nose as the US capitalist? Perhaps he is, but not everything has to be brilliantly subtle.

He certainly seems to have played the role with gusto, from the moment he turned up for the 2-2 draw against Wolves last season and appeared thoroughly baffled by VAR ruling a goal out for offside. Perhaps he had to appoint himself in effect as sporting director this summer as the clearout of Roman Abramovich-era staff stripped the club of sporting expertise, but his fumbling attempts to navigate the market felt at times like one of those body-swap comedies that were so popular in the 80s.

Perhaps that's unfair on Boehly. Perhaps he will learn quickly. Perhaps he brings a fresh perspective. But the early signs have not been good. Football, more than any other sport, is about the unit and you change components within that at your peril. It's not just about paying for the "best" players. That Thomas Tuchel's reluctance to allow Boehly to sign Cristiano Ronaldo and Anthony Gordon was a key point of friction suggests that is not understood – and that should worry Chelsea fans while offering everybody else a potential source of great entertainment. If Manchester United really have started to get their act together under Ten Hag's ferocious glare, there probably is room in the drama for a financial giant run by an owner easily seduced by celebrity with little capacity for long-term planning.

This is the Premier League as satire on capitalism. There is a well-run club thriving on a budget, and there is another club that have just sacked a manager a week after the closure of a transfer window in which he was allowed to guide a quarter of a billion pounds of spending. And yet it is the latter who can lure the prize asset from the former; who can dash the dreams of the little man on a whim.

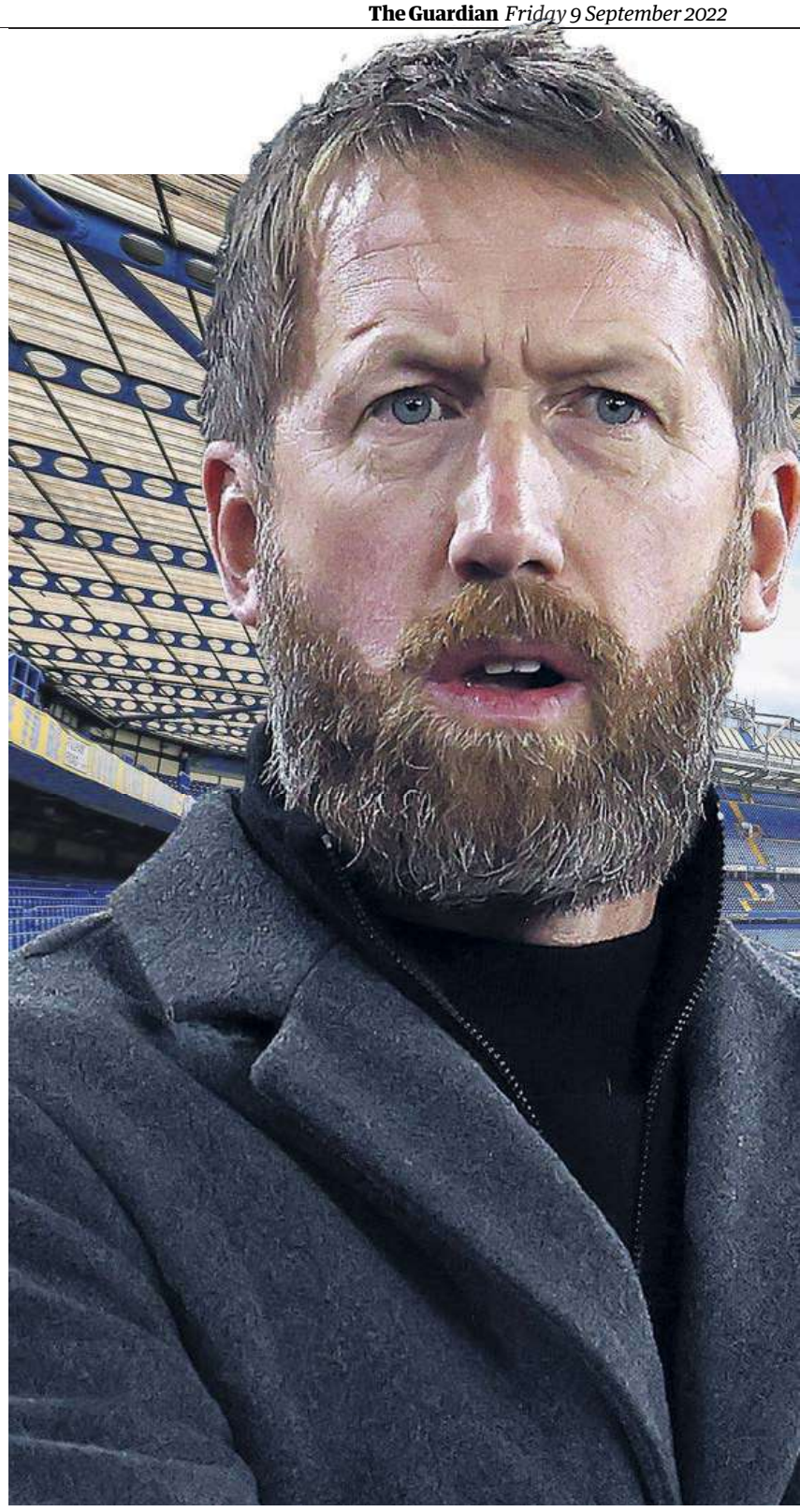
Welcome to modern football. Welcome to the modern world. Welcome to the circus.

From Sweden to Stamford Bridge

Östersund
2011-2018
After a playing career almost entirely outside England's top flight Potter takes his first job as a manager at Östersund in January 2011. He leads the club from Sweden's fourth tier to the top division and qualifies for the Europa League, where they win at Arsenal but go out on aggregate.

Swansea
2018-19
Potter signs a three-year contract at Swansea after their relegation from the Premier League. They reach the FA Cup quarter-finals and finish 10th before he asks to leave for Brighton.

Brighton
2019-22
A record-equalling 15th-place top-flight finish in his first season is followed by 16th place then ninth. Potter impresses with his playing style and results that include two wins over Manchester United in his final three and a half months before Chelsea come calling.



Stamford Bridge in-tray
Six important tasks facing new manager

Style, central midfield and rediscovering the form of Mason Mount will need to be tackled under Graham Potter, as **Ed Aarons** explores

Pass on his playing philosophy

Graham Potter has forged his reputation as a manager by creating teams with a clear playing style. Chelsea have the players to implement his passing philosophy but the question is how long it will take for the former Birmingham and Stoke midfielder to transmit his ideas. Tuchel famously made an immediate impact after he took over from Frank Lampard at the start of last year and, although Potter is up against it to match the German's achievement in winning the Champions League, he will be under no illusions about the expectations of his new employers.

Sort out the defence

Tuchel's success in his first few months at Stamford Bridge was based on their watertight three-man defence but the departures of Antonio Rüdiger and – to a lesser extent – Andreas Christensen created a massive problem. The signings of Kalidou Koulibaly and Wesley Fofana for a combined £103m should resolve this once both have properly found their feet but, for now, it is likely that the new manager will have to lean heavily on the 37-year-old Thiago Silva. Keeping both costly left-backs, Ben Chilwell (£45m) and the former Brighton defender Marc Cucurella (£55m), happy will



◀ *Graham Potter will be under no illusions about the high expectations of his new employers at Chelsea*

ALEX PANTLING/ GETTY IMAGES; NIGEL KEENE/DPPI/ SHUTTERSTOCK

also be a challenge, although you can bet Potter has a plan.

Pick the right formation

Brighton's players have been adept at morphing between systems under Potter and he will have noted the confusion created by some of Tuchel's tactics against Dinamo Zagreb in what turned out to be the German's last match. Expect Chelsea to adopt a more rigid approach in the opening weeks – perhaps sticking with the 3-4-3 that was Tuchel's go-to formation – as Potter works his magic in training, although the 47-year-old will know that he must create a side who are exciting to watch as well. Getting the best out of his wing-backs, especially the dangerous Reece James on the right flank after he signed a new five-year contract on Tuesday, will be key to making them tick again.

Resolve the central midfield issues

Often without the services of N'Golo Kanté because of persistent injuries over the past year, Chelsea struggled to impose themselves in matches under Tuchel and it was a surprise this area wasn't strengthened in the transfer window. Brighton's progression under Potter has been marked by their increasing ability to dominate possession and dictate play – even against some of the Premier League's biggest clubs – so finding the right combination from options that include Jorginho, Mateo Kovacic, Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Conor Gallagher will be crucial. Ensuring that Kanté, who has entered the final 12 months of his contract, is back soon would also be handy.

Help Mount rediscover his best form

Mason Mount was the only Chelsea player to speak to the press after the defeat against Dinamo despite a difficult evening as he struggled in a variety of positions. "We are a team that bounces back, we are strong, and we use this as a moment in time where we get together and look at how we get out of this form," the England midfielder said. The

Keeping both costly left-backs happy will be a challenge, although you can bet Potter has a plan



▼ *Chelsea's Mason Mount scored 11 goals in the Premier League last season but has been struggling for form*

23-year-old scored 11 goals and provided 10 assists for Chelsea in the Premier League last season but has yet to get off the mark in either category in this campaign. Finding the best role for the academy product, who has established himself as the heartbeat of the club with his brilliant performances over the past few years, will be high on Potter's list of tasks.

Decide who will be Chelsea's leading man

The signing of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang on transfer deadline day to replace Romelu Lukaku was Tuchel's last throw of the dice after a summer in which Chelsea flirted with the possibility of signing Cristiano Ronaldo. Aubameyang is 33 and not quite the player he was at Borussia Dortmund under Tuchel, so Potter must decide whether to build his attack around the Gabon striker or take a different approach. Kai Havertz and Raheem Sterling offer alternatives through the middle and would provide a similar work rate to that given by the outstanding Danny Welbeck at Brighton this season. Armando Broja – who signed a new lucrative six-year deal after excelling on loan at Southampton last season – could also come more into the mix.

'I am proud and excited to represent Chelsea'

David Hytner

Graham Potter has been confirmed as Chelsea's manager on a five-year contract worth more than £50m as the club's ownership put their faith in a rising star with fresh ideas to succeed Thomas Tuchel, who was sacked on Wednesday.

Potter joins from Brighton after compensation – understood to be about £16m – was paid to release him. He arrived at Chelsea's training ground yesterday afternoon to sign his contract after a smooth series of negotiations.

The hierarchy did consider the merits of other contenders, including Mauricio Pochettino, who is out of work after his departure from Paris Saint-Germain, but really there was only one choice for them, which was reflected in the speed of appointment.

The decision-makers are impressed at how Potter took a risk to ignite his managerial career in Sweden with unfancied Östersund, his ability to do things differently and his collaborative and communicative style.

Potter will be afforded a say in the appointment of a sporting director who, it is expected, will be in place before the start of the World Cup on 20 November – in time to oversee the January transfer window. Tuchel had made it clear he had little interest in becoming involved in that process.

The club have spoken to candidates with and without Premier League experience and, in terms of further signings after the record summer £266m outlay on fees, they have started conversations. Many have stemmed from their work over the past summer.

"I am incredibly proud and excited to represent Chelsea FC, this fantastic football club," Potter said in a statement on the club's website.

"I would also like to place my sincere thanks to Brighton & Hove Albion for allowing me this opportunity and in particular Tony Bloom and all the players, staff and supporters for their continued support during my time at the club."

The co-owners, Todd Boehly and Behdad Eghbali, addressed the squad on Wednesday afternoon and, separately, held talks with a group of senior players. They promised to support them as they transition to life under Potter.

'I would also like to place my sincere thanks to Brighton & Hove Albion'

Graham Potter
New Chelsea manager

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Sport



MICHAEL ZEMANEK/SHUTTERSTOCK

▲ *West Ham and FCSB pay their respects to the Queen before their Europa Conference League game*

Sport stands down in tribute on day of mourning for Queen

Sean Ingle

Sport will hold a day of mourning for the Queen today, with the third Test between England and South Africa and the PGA championship at Wentworth among the events to be paused for at least a day as a mark of respect.

All Football League fixtures today and the third day of racing's St Leger festival at Doncaster have been called off, while the RFU will announce whether Bristol v Bath and Sale v Northampton will go ahead. However, rugby league's Super League playoff between Catalans and Leeds will take place as it is in Perpignan.

Several sports will hold urgent talks to decide whether play should resume at the weekend, with most hoping to do so depending on the public mood over the next 24 hours. Many are encouraged by indications from the government that the palace is not keen to have a lengthy period without fixtures or events.

However, football may yet be an exception, with the Premier League and English Football League set to meet at 9am to agree a final position. Some in the game are mindful of not taking up police resources or barriers, while others believe a longer period of mourning would be more appropriate. It could yet lead to the entire weekend of games being postponed.

Sports received official guidance from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport only hours after the Queen's death due to a fear of leaks, leaving them with little time to plan. That has led to frustration among some as they rushed to decide what to do next. One observer told the Guardian that a key discussion among all sports centred around whether a one-day or longer suspension to mark the Queen's death was more suitable.

> ***'A constant presence of grace and decency in a changing world'***
>
> **Leah Williamson**
> *England captain*

It is understood the England and Wales Cricket Board is looking at options for the third Test at the Oval that range from applying to the International Cricket Council to extend the match by an extra day to cancelling it completely. However, it is thought that it is more likely that the Test continues at some point.

A similar attitude exists among the European Tour after the PGA Championship was suspended for the day after the news broke. In a statement, the DP Tour also said that play would be suspended today.

In cycling, the Tour of Britain, which was scheduled to finish on Sunday, has also been cancelled.

The Football League confirmed that tonight's Burnley v Norwich City and Tranmere Rovers v Stockport County games had been postponed. It added: "A determination regarding the remainder of this weekend's fixtures will be made following a review of the official mourning guidance."

Some action did carry on after the Queen's death yesterday, including Manchester United's Europa League game with Real Sociedad. However, a minute's silence was held before kick-off.

British Racing paid tribute to the Queen, calling her "one of the greatest and most influential supporters in the history of horse racing".

Leah Williamson, the captain of England's women's football team, highlighted the Queen's impact on national life. "A constant presence of grace and decency in a world that continued to change," she wrote. "To comprehend the loss of our Queen is almost impossible, because we hoped she could reign for ever. A wonderful monarch but an exceptional person."



Juliette Binoche

on the hell of love triangles – and ‘little boy’ Gérard Depardieu

The Guardian

G2

Friday 09/09/22

Film & Music

Laurie Anderson
Finding Lou Reed’s secret folk tape
page 4

Top bananas
Arctic Monkeys songs ranked!
page 2



Ranked! Arctic Monkeys songs

With their seventh album on the way, we trace the road that got them here. By Alexis Petridis

1
A Certain Romance *(2006)*
That Turner was still in his teens when he wrote A Certain Romance is evidence of a preternatural lyrical gift. No song skewered the early 00s demonisation of "chavs" quite so effectively. It's also a brilliantly constructed piece of writing that, in tone, executes a 180-degree turn in its final verse: whatever you think he's saying, that's what he's not. But it's also something that perhaps only a teenager could have written; he isn't pronouncing on a social phenomenon from a distance, just talking about kids he knows from school.

2
Do I Wanna Know? *(2013)*
Do I Wanna Know? swaggers with the confidence of a band who know they have unexpectedly hit a new peak 10 years into their career. Footage from this year's Reading festival of the teenage crowd singing along not just to Do I Wanna Know's lyrics, but to its guitar riff, underlines what a powerful beast the latter is.

3
505 *(2007)*
The belated progress of 505 from overlooked album track to one of Arctic Monkeys' biggest songs is fascinating. TikTok clearly played a role, but so did the sheer quality of the song: over chords borrowed from Ennio Morricone, it deals in beautifully understated melancholy.

4
The View from the Afternoon *(2006)*
"Anticipation has a habit to set you up for disappointment," is quite a line with which to open a hotly anticipated debut album. Rather than deflating expectations, The View from the Afternoon only succeeds in fulfilling them.

5
R U Mine? *(2012)*
The first indication that their fifth album was going to be a cut above, R U Mine? is AM in microcosm. Immense, distorted riffs, thunderous drums, the lyrics a vivid tumble of pop cultural imagery, referencing everything from Sandie Shaw to Thunderbirds.

6
Fluorescent Adolescent *(2007)*
Fluorescent Adolescent suggested that, like Morrissey circa Meat Is Murder, Turner also paid attention to the late Victoria Wood's songwriting. It's easy to imagine her singing its empathic, beautifully observed depiction of a former party girl grappling with middle age.

7
Cornerstone *(2009)*
A strong candidate for the title of Arctic Monkeys' most lovely song, Cornerstone's greatness is focused more on the simple splendour of its melody than Turner's words, although there are some fantastic lines in there. "I smelt your scent on the seatbelt."

8
That's Where You're Wrong *(2011)*
Arctic Monkeys are good at grand finales: every one of their albums has a great closing track. Their fourth, Suck It and See, is no exception. The guitars alternately clang and shimmer, the bass powers the whole thing along, the lyrics seem to switch between celebrating a new romance and mourning a lost one.

9
Mardy Bum *(2006)*
Turner began his career imitating the Strokes' Julian Casablancas before realising that singing the way he spoke – with a Yorkshire accent – was infinitely more original and effective. Which brings us to Mardy Bum's utterly charming, slang-packed saga of relationship strife – it wouldn't be half as affecting in a faux-American drawl.

10
Star Treatment *(2018)*
Blessed with the most striking opening line on their sixth LP, Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino – "I just wanted to be one of the Strokes," sings Alex Turner – Star Treatment offers up a homage to the Beach Boys' Pet Sounds that's ambitious and entirely successful.

See full list at theguardian.com/music

Playlist



1 **Gabriels**
Angels and Queens
Jacob Lusk has a miraculous voice that aches with feeling, without forsaking its salty playfulness. To frisky, lustrous funk, he skewers socialites then admits to his own loneliness.

2 **Phoenix**
Tonight ft Ezra Koenig
It captures the sound of their classic LP Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix, with none of the idealism; the French band are a decade older and sounding a good deal more wistful.

3 **Björk**
Atopos
Entertainingly, Björk's call for us to all just get along ("our differences are irrelevant") comes set to a deliciously dissonant fusillade of clarinets and drums that is nobody's idea of a unifying anthem. Good though!

4 **Mura Masa**
E-motions ft Erika de Casier
The UK producer links up with the criminally under-rated Danish singer and producer on this twinkling lullaby of a two-step track, a dancefloor heater made with a featherlight touch.

5 **Dry Cleaning**
Gary Ashby
Probably the best song ever written about a lost tortoise, Gary Ashby paints an unsettling picture of total collapse ("dad's got blood on his head") in Florence Shaw's beseeching delivery.

6 **Ruth Radelet**
Stranger
The LA songwriter breaks through the icy veneer of her old band, cult electronic quartet Chromatics, for a mournful folk ballad with a filmic haze.

7 **Oliver Sim**
Run the Credits
Produced by Sim's xx bandmate Jamie, this is dark and pacey, but grudgingly euphoric – a louche post-punk alternative to yassified love-is-love anthems.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: PATRICK SWIRC/CAMERA PRESS/MODDS

The reader interview

‘I’m your man for artists, Churchill or rats’

Timothy Spall on playing a hangman, slicing into Mike Leigh’s sutured steaks and his sloth impersonation



PHOTOGRAPH: THOMAS NIEDERMÜLLER/GETTY IMAGES FOR ZFF

I’ve heard there’s a module at Rada about becoming the embodiment of an animal. Legend has it you were incredible. What animal were you and what process did you go through? *spikeboy*
I remember I wasn’t that keen on it, so I think I was a sloth so I could just curl up in the corner and pretend I was on a tree and just shift up a bit every 20 minutes. We had a wonderful teacher but I used the animal thing as an exercise in having a bit of a kip.

We really enjoyed the Turner and Lowry films. Did you learn to paint in both of their styles? Which famous British painter might you like to play next? *Rextanka1 and DarkAnaemicI*
I started painting a couple of years before we even started rehearsing Mr Turner. I had this excellent teacher, Tim Wright, and painted a complete reproduction of one of Turner’s masterpieces that I have on my wall and still can’t quite work out how I did it. It wasn’t until I played Lowry [in 2019’s Mrs Lowry & Son] that I started painting a lot. I couldn’t stop painting between takes. I was doing slightly bad Turners, slightly bad Lowry knockoffs, then all of a sudden I started painting but couldn’t work out who it looked like, and realised it was me. I had my own exhibition last year [at London’s Pontone gallery], which was a massive surprise. Life imitating art.

William Blake would be a hell of a role because he wasn’t only an artist but a philosopher, a Christian mystic, and an amazing character. There are so many artists, but I’ve had enough trouble with rats. I’ve played a few of those [Scabbers in Harry Potter, Nick in Chicken Run, and in the Mike Leigh play Smelling a Rat]. I’ve played Churchill twice [in Jackboots on Whitehall and The King’s Speech]. So I’m your man for artists, Churchill or rats.

Do you take on a role like that of hangman Albert Pierrepoint with an accepted measure of risk, or are you confident you can handle the psychological burden? *rolleyes*
I was confident in as much as that, as an actor, you’re always playing someone else. You’re delving into somebody else’s psychology to tell their story. As a young man, I’d read his autobiography, Executioner: Pierrepoint, and was struck by the mixture of jolliness, politeness and darkness. So I knew there was something very unusual about this man. One of the first people I had to hang happened to be one of my son [actor Rafe Spall]’s really good friends. They set up this reproduction of the gallows in the execution room from Wandsworth prison. There were so many people coming in, I’d say: “Good morning, how’s it going? I’m gonna hang you in a minute,” and I had to hang him in the first week. That was bizarre.

When we went to Norfolk to recreate Germany’s Hamelin jail, I had to drop about 15 people in an afternoon. Pierrepoint was mindful to show respect to the bodies, and would clean and wash them afterwards. He took it seriously, as he does in the film.

> **When you’ve got cockroaches crawling out of your mouth, you know you’re in a Ken Russell movie**

I’d nearly forgotten how completely crazy, bonkers and inventive 1986’s Gothic is. What was Ken Russell like to work with? *GasparGarcao and TheFall2007*
Ken Russell was actually very together and organised, given that he had a reputation of being this wild man. I remember coming to rehearsal and him saying: “This is where we find you dead. Here’s the art director to discuss the cockroaches coming out of your mouth.” I said: “Excuse me? There is no way I’m going to have cockroaches coming out of my mouth.” They ended up using a plaster cast of my face. We also had a leech wrangler with this huge bucket of leeches. Ken freaked out and tucked his jeans into his socks because he thought one was going to crawl up his leg. One minute you’ve got cockroaches crawling out of your mouth, the next you’re working with a bucket of leeches. That’s when you know you’re in a Ken Russell movie.

Send us your questions for next week’s interviewee
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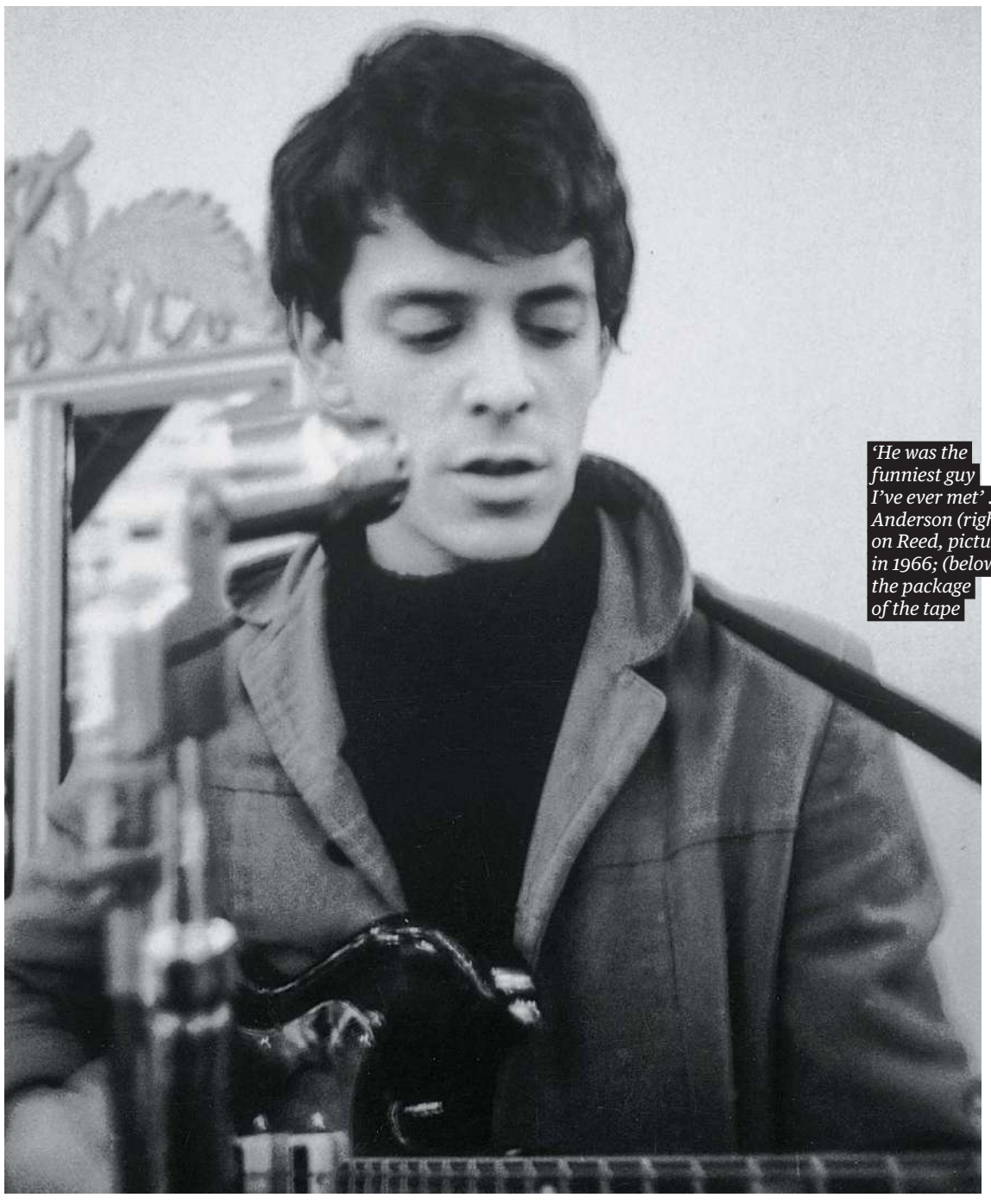
One of my favourite ever scenes is the barbecue in Secrets & Lies because of the complex choreography. How much rehearsing was needed, and how many takes did it, er, take? *boavisteiro*
It was very precise. The thing with Mike Leigh is there’s a misconception that it’s all improvised. It’s not. It’s worked out to absolute precision; you are never going to be more rehearsed. I kept having to cut into a steak. We did about 15 takes and they ran out of steak, so they had to stitch these steaks together, and when I cut into it, it had all these stitches, like it had had an operation. It was absolutely disgusting!

I met you when you came to see Rafe perform in my play Death of England. Have you ever been tempted to give Rafe acting notes? Does he give you any? *RoyWilliams*
We give each other moral support, but I’ve never given him an acting note and he’s never given me one. He grew up with me shouting at the television: that’s been his lesson. You can’t talk to someone about how to act; it’s something that you learn in rehearsal.

Is acting talent hereditary? I presume. A lot of sons and daughters of actors become actors; the same with painters. Look at all the Dutch, there’s the “generation patch” between older and younger workers. It’s to do with the atmosphere you’re born into. Pierrepoint chose to be a hangman because it was in his family. Had I been a hangman in real life, would Rafe have been one too? Who knows, apart from the fact that we mercifully haven’t had the death penalty since 1961, so we wouldn’t have got much work!

If you could meet Shakespeare, what would you ask him? *alexHD*
My mind boggles at his genius. His unbelievably prophetic and philosophical poetry touches everybody. Not only is he a great playwright, but he said things in two lines that philosophers are still trying to explain. So I would like to ask him what he makes of everybody trying to tell him it wasn’t him. So many people say: how can it have been, when he came from this lowly background? He probably had a Midlands accent, he wasn’t an aristocrat. I’d say: “You might have thought you were underestimated when you were alive, but things haven’t changed much, mate.”
As told to Rich Pelley
It Snows in Benidorm is in UK cinemas now.

A walk on the folk side



'He was the funniest guy I've ever met' ... Anderson (right) on Reed, pictured in 1966; (below) the package of the tape

When Laurie Anderson went through her late husband Lou Reed's boxes, she found a 1965 demo tape that casts new light on his Velvet Underground classics, she tells **Alexis Petridis**

In the later years of his life, Lou Reed kept an office in Manhattan's West Village and a storage space in New York City's Chelsea district. The latter, says his former technical assistant Jason Stern, was "stacked almost floor to ceiling" with unlabelled cardboard boxes. "I had no idea what was in them. I never asked Lou."

When Reed died in 2013, the question of what to do with it all loomed large for his wife, the artist, musician and film director Laurie Anderson. Reed left no instructions regarding his archive. "Wouldn't that be great! No, nothing. Zero. We didn't really talk about it," she says. She even balks at the notion of calling it an archive. "I wouldn't say that because he kept things, he was aware of their value. He didn't think about his stuff that way. He wasn't curating at all. He really wasn't that interested in his past. He just left it there. This stuff was not important to him."

Clearly, something had to be done with the boxes he had left behind: whether the notoriously contrary Reed cared or not, they represented the annals of one of the most important figures in rock history. Anderson engaged Stern and Don Fleming (producer of Sonic Youth, Hole and Alice Cooper among others, frontman of cult New York bands BALL and Gumball and latterly involved with conserving the archive of folklorist Alan Lomax) to sort through them. Inevitably, they found a treasure trove: 600 hours of unreleased live and studio recordings, alongside tapes that suggested Reed had followed his old mentor Andy Warhol's example and recorded everything that happened to him over the course of a day. "The way that Andy and [assistant] Brigid Polk would tape everything with a portable cassette deck, Lou would do the same," says Fleming. "A lot of the tapes we found are exactly that: they're Lou hailing a cab with Moe Tucker."

But the most startling discovery wasn't in the storage unit. Clearing the shelves behind Reed's desk, Stern and Fleming found a package that they initially thought was a CD box set. On closer inspection, it turned out to be a reel-to-reel tape, sealed in a paper envelope dated May 1965 and addressed by Reed to himself, at his parents' house in Freeport, Long Island.

When they opened it, they discovered a demo tape. Reed had sent it to himself as a cheap way of asserting authorship of its contents: in a fabulous minor detail, the package was notarised by someone called Harry Lichtiger, whom research revealed to have been a shonky local pharmacist, convicted of selling barbiturates without prescription. It contained recordings made by Reed and John Cale when Reed was still working as a songwriter for the budget label Pickwick Records. Among them were the earliest known versions of the Velvet Underground's Heroin, I'm Waiting for the Man and Pale Blue Eyes, Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams – the song which the Velvet Underground played live and eventually appeared on Nico's debut solo album Chelsea Girl – and a selection of previously unheard songs. It opens with Men of Good Fortune – not the song of the same name that Reed recorded on 1973's Berlin, but a faux-traditional folk ballad, sung from a female viewpoint.

"That shocked me the most," says Anderson, "because of the voice he chose to use, which is a little girl. He could do hundreds of voices and he'd given names to all these imaginary people – and that little girl was one of them. So to hear her narrating was mind-blowing for me: wow, he was doing that as a kid, too?"

The contents of the tape are about to be released as an album, Words and Music, May 1965. There are other reasons to be startled by its contents, not least the fresh light it shines on one of the US's most important songwriters. Fans know that Reed was obsessed with doo-wop and tough rhythm and blues – you can hear the influence of the former on one of the demo's other unreleased tracks, Buzz Buzz Buzz, and the latter on another, Stockpile. Less expected is the sound of Reed as the Bob Dylan-influenced, harmonica-playing folkie, essaying Heroin and I'm Waiting for the Man as gentle, fingerpicked acoustic guitar pieces, and performing a rousing waltz-time number called Buttercup Song that feels like it was designed to get audiences bellowing lustily along at Greenwich Village open-mic nights (a handful of earlier home recordings included on the Words and Music album feature Reed covering Don't Think Twice, It's Alright and hootenanny

PHOTOGRAPHS: REDFERNS; MARIA SPANN/THE GUARDIAN

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Dylan is the answer for most of the things on there – he made a big impression on Lou



perennial Michael, Row the Boat Ashore).

Indeed, it's so obviously influenced by Dylan that you wonder how Reed bit his tongue a year later, when the Velvet Underground were embedded in Warhol's Factory studio, a milieu where Dylan was colloquially referred to as "The Creep" and satirised in Warhol's films More Milk, Yvette and The Bob Dylan Story. "Dylan is the answer for most of the things on there," says Anderson. "His harmonica, the whine, the tone. Empathy and the underdog and voices that are not heard, not the voice of the heroic songwriter poet. We talked about Dylan now and then, and it was a complicated relationship. But Dylan made a big impression on him."

Equally striking, is how different in tone the Velvet Underground songs here are to the versions the band later recorded. Heroin somehow manages to be gentler and more nihilistic; the word "don't" is missing from the opening line: "I know just where I'm going." Pale Blue Eyes is famed as the most beautiful of the songs Reed wrote about his college sweetheart, Shelley Albin, who had left him and married a "big wheel" on Syracuse University's campus: the hushed tenderness of the version on the eponymous third Velvet Underground album rooted in the fact that Reed and Albin had subsequently resumed their affair behind her husband's back. But the 1965 demo is markedly different, closer to the icy cruelty of the songs on Berlin: "I'd just as soon see you dead," he sings. Weirdest of all, I'm Waiting for the Man is played for laughs. The Harlem pimp who demands: "Hey white boy, what you doin' uptown?" is answered not by a sneering Reed but Cale affecting an exaggeratedly posh English accent: "Oh pardon me sir, nothing could be further from my mind," he stammers, like Hugh Grant in a tight spot.

"I wasn't surprised at all, it made perfect sense to me," says Anderson of the song's lighthearted tone. "I recognised Lou, that was him – he was hilarious, he was the funniest guy I've ever met."

More prosaically, Fleming points out that "in the context of what they were up to at the time, it makes a lot of sense". Reed and Cale were scratching together a meagre living from busking ("we made more money on the sidewalks than anywhere else," Cale later remembered) and a comedy routine involving a flustered Englishman, even an Englishman flustered by the business of scoring heroin, had a touch of street theatre about it, useful in piquing the interest of passersby.

It was a world that was about to shift. Within months of the demo being recorded, Reed and Cale had formed the Velvet Underground, secured themselves a residency at Café Bizarre in Greenwich Village, and – fortuitously – met Warhol two nights before Café Bizarre fired them, thanks to what guitarist Sterling Morrison called the "outrage and bewilderment" caused by their music. Within a year, they were in the studio recording The Velvet Underground and Nico, and in the process, changing rock music for ever.

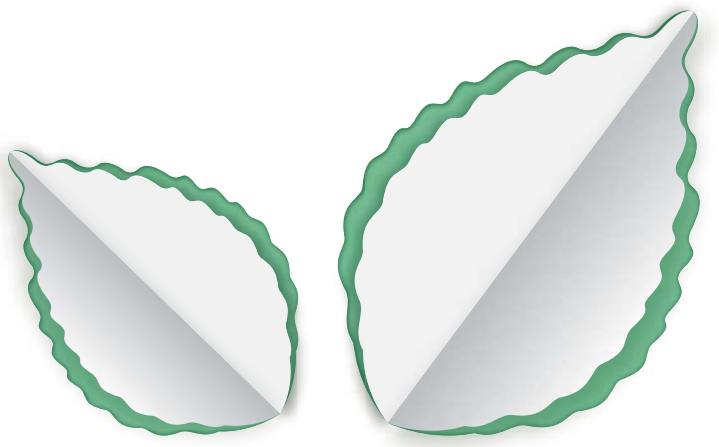
Along the way, Cale lured Reed away from the folk music found on the demo tape: "I couldn't give a shit about folk music, I hated Joan Baez and Dylan," he later protested, although, in fairness, Cale sounds as if he's having a high old time singing harmonies. Only one song faintly suggests what would happen next: sung by Cale, Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams is eight minutes long and driven not by Reed's guitar, but a kind of drone, which sounds like the body of guitar being repeatedly struck with something, maybe a coin. "The last song on the tape," says Stern, "and suddenly the bridge to the Velvet Underground feels a lot more solid, it starts to become more logical where this is going."

In his later years at least, Reed kept the unopened package within easy reach: the sleeve notes of Words and Music suggest its proximity might have functioned as "a talisman of sorts, a reminder of his musical journey", although Anderson isn't sure about that. He must have known what was on it, but never proffered it when box sets or deluxe editions of the Velvet Underground's work were compiled.

"I was in the office when the courtesy copy of the White Light/White Heat Super Deluxe edition came in," says Stern, "and he wasn't particularly pleased that this thing showed up in the mail. He was like: 'What are these bonus discs? What is this stuff? Why are they doing it?' Then he cranked the volume really loud, listened to the bonus disc of them playing live at the Gymnasium in New York in 1967 and was transported. But I had to remove the Velvet Underground from his iTunes, so it wouldn't accidentally come on when he was listening to other things. He would hear his own voice and be like: 'This isn't me listening to music for fun.'"

Which begs the question of what Reed would have made of people listening to his nascent songs today. Anderson frowns. "He would have loved this tape if he had listened to it – I really can't stand it when people say what a dead person would like. Really? How do you know that?" she says, for a moment sounding not unlike her late husband in withering mode. "My guess is that he would have been interested in this young guy who was so ambitious, and so much the same person as the old guy, you know?"

Words and Music, May 1965 is released digitally on Light in the Attic on 16 September and physically on 21 October.



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‘I broke a barrier so people can follow me’



A film about a former boyband star and the autistic drummer who changes his life is a heartfelt redemption story. Its director and cast talk to **Cath Clarke**



Keeping it true … Leo Long with Ed Skrein and (left) as Stevie

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‘I’ve always dreamed of being in a boyband,” says the director Eddie Sternberg, laughing – quickly adding: “I’m kidding!” He is talking about his debut feature, I Used to Be Famous. It’s the story of a washed-up former pop star, played by Deadpool actor Ed Skrein, who gets his musical mojo back by jamming with a talented autistic drummer (played by newcomer Leo Long).

Actually, says Sternberg, he got the idea for the film 10 years ago when pop stars started doing comeback tours. “Blue, 5ive, Eternal – all these bands from when I was a kid.” Grabbing at a final 15 minutes of fame, they were only in their late 20s or early 30s. “I found that tragic, the idea of people having their peak in their teens or 20s, then trying to fill that void. And I love redemption stories.”

In 2015, he turned the idea into a short film, also called I Used to Be Famous. Now comes the feature film, commissioned by Netflix. It’s a cockle-warming British movie in the style of The Full Monty and Billy Elliott, aiming to deliver all the feels.

“Feelgood doesn’t need to be a cuss word, you know,” says Skrein over Zoom from Los Angeles. He plays Vinnie D, who used to be a member of Britain’s biggest boyband. That was 20 years ago; since they split he has watched his former bandmate and rival become wildly successful, reaching Robbie Williams levels of fame. Vinnie’s solo career has reached the dizzy heights of busking around Peckham – using an ironing board as a keyboard stand.

Like the character he plays, Skrein has turned his life around more than once. “I’m going to be 40 next year,” he says. “I’ve been on a couple of journeys.” Which is a bit of an understatement. After falling in with the wrong crowd, at 17 Skrein was stabbed in a knife attack that put him in hospital with a collapsed lung. Knuckling down, he enrolled on a BA in fine art at Central Saint Martins. He would paint by day and hang out at the recording studio by night, where his mate, rapper Plan B (AKA Ben Drew), was writing an album.

Skrein started rapping himself. He dreamed of becoming a breakout performer “with integrity”. Then came an epiphany in his late 20s: “OK: this is the reality. There’s no money in underground music.” By that point he had a baby. “You can’t support a kid with it,” he laughs. He taught swimming to children at the local sports centre – a “legit, normal job”, which he loved. Still, there was a sense of failure: “The crushing feeling of not achieving what you had projected to the world that you were gonna do.”

Skrein started acting when Plan B cast him in a short film, which led to a role in the rapper’s 2012 movie Ill Manors. Since then, his career has rocketed, with parts in Game of Thrones, superhero flick Deadpool, the Transporter franchise and Barry Jenkins’ If Beale Street Could Talk.

Still, he could relate to Vinnie’s frustrations: the “compare and despair … I remember that time for myself,” he says. Besides, plenty of his mates in music never made it. “A lot of my peers didn’t achieve, didn’t buy houses and cars.” A lot of them now have mental health problems and addictions. “So, when you talk about drawing on these experiences, yeah.”

In the film, Vinnie gets a refresher lesson in creative integrity from a teenage drummer with autism who is applying to music school. That character, Stevie, is inspired by Sternberg’s cousin Saul Zur-Szpiro, a drummer who is autistic and has high support needs that require full-time care. Zur-Szpiro first picked up drumsticks at 10 – “at the time he didn’t have the strength to hold them”. Now he plays with rock band the AutistiX, which has a mix of autistic and non-autistic members.

Sternberg tells me about a charity gig the AutistiX played a few years ago, when they were unexpectedly joined on stage by Tom Jones. “I remember seeing that video and being blown away, knowing where Saul came from. Saul was someone who didn’t like crowds, didn’t like loud noises, and suddenly he’s performing in front of a thousand people with Tom Jones. For me that was the power of music, without wanting to sound cheesy.”

In the film, Sternberg wanted to create a representation of an autistic experience that felt real: “I think it’s important that neurodivergent



Street scene … Skrein and Long in I Used To Be Famous



The feelgood factor ... director, Eddie Sternberg

> **I was quite confident we'd find the right person for the part who is neurodivergent**

people see a reflection of themselves authentically on screen." He worked closely with the National Autistic Society, sending drafts of the screenplay he co-wrote with Zak Klein to the charity's script reader, who is autistic – "making sure that they felt it was true".

To find an actor to play Stevie, a nationwide callout went out to autistic and neurodivergent musicians and actors. "Our focus was on finding someone who had that lived experience," says Sternberg. Films have often come under fire for hiring neurotypical actors in autistic roles. You sense the thought never crossed Sternberg's mind. "I wouldn't rule anything out in theory," he says slowly. "But I was quite confident that we would find the right person who is neurodivergent. There are plenty of neurodivergent and autistic actors – actors who have not had opportunities in the past."

One of the hundreds of tapes that landed in his inbox came from musician Long – filmed by his mum at home in Hampshire. Long arrived at the audition in London with a banjo and an Irish bodhrán (drum) under his arm. "His personality was amazing," recalls Sternberg. "He was also going through a relatively similar journey to Stevie. He was 19, pushing through into his 20s. He understood a lot of what Steve was going through. Also, I loved his story. He was nonverbal until he was nine years old."

Over a video call, Long, now 21, describes himself as a "young neurodivergent bloke". This is his first interview with a national newspaper, but he is relaxed.

Did he have any anxieties about starring in a film? He grins ear to ear. Nope. "I think I'm pretty confident as an actor." Quite rightly, he is proud of his achievements. "I punched a barrier so people can follow me." What does he think is the message of the film? "I think it's a brilliantly uplifting film about music bringing people together."

Also on the call is acting coach Tricia Hitchcock, who supported Long throughout the process. She works with Access All Areas, a theatre company for autistic and learning-disabled actors based in London. "It's a creative coach; you take on acting technique as well as the person," she says. After their first meeting, they did four half-day workshops together. "We started right at the beginning," Hitchcock says. "Talking about what acting is." Later they began to explore Stevie the character. "Who is Leo and who is Stevie? That is very important with neurodivergent people."

I ask Long: what are the similarities between himself and his character? He beams. "Two similarities. One, they play music, drums. And two, wanting to leave home, being independent." Happily, the film has brought him closer to the second goal. Long is speaking from Sheffield, where he is rehearsing another role, this time in a theatre production of Much Ado About Nothing.

The actor who plays Stevie's single mother, Amber, is The Walking Dead's Eleanor Matsuura. It's the kind of role that can be a bit of a turn-off: the anxious parent, all sunken eyes and worry lines. What appealed to Matsuura, she says, was that Amber wasn't "the overprotective mother". She is steely and emotionally attuned, an effective advocate for her son. Her concerns about Stevie are grounded in experience. The role got Matsuura thinking about the labels that get put on parents – "especially mums," she says, pulling a face. "Like 'helicopter' and 'overbearing'. Such harsh terms."

I ask Sternberg how he modified the film-making process for Long and the other neurodivergent actors, who were hired to play members of a drumming club Stevie belongs to. (You can spot Zur-Szpiro, wearing an AutistiX T-shirt.) "The main thing was allotting time and safe spaces," says Sternberg. "I wanted to create a nice, relaxed set."

That said, neurodivergent actors were the "most efficient," he adds. "They were ready to go. Saul especially; he loves repetition. So, because we're doing so many takes, he really enjoyed that. He'd get more and more involved with each take."

Has his cousin seen the film? "Yes. It was absolutely magical. He was leaning forward watching it the whole time. When it got to the end, he just turned to me and gave me a thumbs up. It gave me shivers."

I Used to Be Famous is released today in cinemas and on 16 September on Netflix.

PHOTOGRAPHS: NETFLIX; EDWIG HENSON



Let's get the violin party started!

Brittney Parks, AKA Sudan Archives, tells **Ammar Kalia** why we should embrace the joy of strings

Brittney Parks is on a mission "to show the Blackness of the violin", she says. As a child in Ohio, she learned to play the instrument by ear. She moved to Los Angeles in her late teens where, escaping her stepfather's dream that she and her twin sister Cat should form a pop duo, she started to research the history of string music. "I found violinists who looked like me in Africa, playing it so wildly," says Parks. "It's such a serious instrument in a western concert setting, but in so many other places in the world it brings the party."

> I'm a deep and insightful person, but I'm also very silly

This discovery pushed Parks towards her true musical path, though it would take a while to get the party started. She named herself Sudan Archives and, after an initial EP in 2017, her elegant, poised debut album, 2019's Athena, established her exploration of non-western string traditions through the inclusion of instruments such as the bouzouki and oud. But it's her new album, Natural Brown Prom Queen, that fully embodies the riot of sound that this family of instruments can create.

"It felt like time to let people know who I am," says Parks, sitting in the leafy gardens of London's Museum of the Home. "My stage name is kind of academic and on Athena, I created this thoughtful persona centred on divine Black femininity. Now I want to show my looseness, too. I'm a deep, insightful person, but I'm also fucking silly."

Parks shows me clips of her show from the previous night in Leeds, the crowd bouncing to her music. They reflect the playful energy of the new record, riffing through soul-claps and one-string melodies on NBPQ (Topless) as Parks raps "I just want to have my titties out"; singing over thundering bass about the freedom of cutting her hair on Selfish Soul; or recounting a road romance on the synth-funk of Chevy S10.

Parks was originally going to call the album Homesick "because I started it during the pandemic when I was really missing Cincinnati and my mom," she says. "I realised that while I couldn't get back to Cincinnati, my place in LA didn't feel homely either, so I began to nest and decorate." Along with her partner, the rapper All City Jimmy, she built a studio in her basement where she wrote and recorded the album. "My boyfriend is so LA; he's lived his whole life here, and his sense of comfort in where he's from made me realise what I was missing," she says. "I was always searching in other places for meaning but I felt lost because I never claimed where I was from."

In her young life, Parks couldn't wait to get away from Cincinnati. Things at home were fractious. Her stepfather had spotted Parks's natural aptitude for music and convinced her to form a pop duo, N2, with her twin sister, Cat. But the teenage Parks was more drawn to the DIY party scene than spending time with producers trying to come up with a hit. "Watching those artists, I realised that I didn't need to be in a band. I could do this by myself," she says. "My parents told me I couldn't live with them if I kept going out. So I left."

Within a year, Parks had moved to LA and, on 2017, released her first EP as Sudan Archives. Foregrounding the violin, the EP built a delicate soundscape of looped strings, handclaps and body percussion alongside Parks's layered vocal harmonies. Its unusual blend of acoustic orchestration and fractal beat-making gained Parks a grassroots following. Only a year later, she was playing to a packed crowd at Coachella. "I'm proud that I took the steps to put myself out there and that people responded so well," she says.

To reclaim her roots on her second album, Parks brought in Cincinnati production royalty Hi-Tek and shouts out her hometown zip code on the track #513. "I didn't go to my prom in high school, so the idea behind calling this album Natural Brown Prom Queen is to make it my homecoming," she says. "I can be my natural self and it feels like I've come full circle to embrace my roots."

It also feels like Parks is finally writing the pop hits she once rebelled against. "It's more experimental than ever," she counters. "The tracks are more polished and people seem to be responding. I don't even know what pop is any more – I'm just poppin'!"

Natural Brown Prom Queen is out today on Stones Throw.

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'Raking over the painful things wasn't easy' ... Stuart Braithwaite

PHOTOGRAPH: JIM DYSON/GETTY IMAGES

Life at full volume

Mogwai's Stuart Braithwaite has written his autobiography – a story of excess, fierce independence – and UFOs. He talks to **Emily Mackay**

The thing that surprises you most, reading Mogwai guitarist Stuart Braithwaite's memoir, is that anyone involved can remember anything at all. Such was the full-body commitment with which the participants of the 90s Glasgow music scene he documents threw themselves into during the last days of real music industry money, that the whole era should, by rights, be one big blackout.

The subtitle of his book Spaceships Over Glasgow is Mogwai, Mayhem and Misspent Youth, and from early days experimenting with sniffing Tipp-Ex solvent while listening to the 13th Floor Elevators, the madness rarely lets up. On Mogwai's first foreign tour, to Norway in 1997, they partake of the ferry bar so enthusiastically – snorting the booze for extra intoxication – that for a few hours they are genuinely not sure whether one of them has fallen overboard. Musical milestones whiz by in a drunken blur, relationships suffer and minds fray at the edges. At one particularly dark moment, Braithwaite responds to his breakup with his teenage sweetheart, Adele Bethel, with a months-long psychedelic bender and manages to convince himself his right hand is demonically possessed.

While Braithwaite, 46, feels no shame in recounting Mogwai's feral days eating baby food on tour, "raking over some things that happened that are painful wasn't the easiest thing", he says. "Like, really thinking about losing my dad or getting divorced ... I'm not the kind of person that talks about myself at all, so it was weird. But then you think about the good things that happened after it or before."

Some of the best memories recount his teenage initiation into music growing up in the Clyde valley: a lost world of taping songs from the radio, skiving school to queue at record shops for gig tickets, and staying up for live performances on late-night TV. Most entrancingly, it conjures a sensation familiar to anyone who has stood close to the front at a Mogwai gig: the physical rush, the consuming force with which bands can swallow you whole. At 13, Braithwaite saw the Cure for the first time: "I'd never heard anything so loud in my life, but it wasn't just volume, there was a clarity to it as well," he writes. "I felt transformed."

A couple of years later, having witnessed Nirvana at Reading in 1991, he realised with joy that Kurt Cobain was a fan of Scottish bands such as the Vaselines and Teenage Fanclub. How did the support of Cobain, the figurehead of ambition in alternative music at the time, affect the Glasgow scene that followed? "It really was quite important," he says. "Because there were two camps. There was the 'move to London and try to sell millions of records' camp, and then there was the Pastels, Teenage Fanclub camp, it's the 'stay in Glasgow and be like the Pastels' worldview that won. I think representation really matters. When I did start making my own music, I wasn't thinking: 'Oh, I can never do this', because I'd seen people like me already do it."

The dark grandeur of the bands of Braithwaite's gothic youth plus the vaulting guitar noise and dynamic assault of US indie rock, post-hardcore and grunge fed into the sound of Mogwai, the band he formed with bassist Dominic Aitchison and drummer Martin Bulloch in 1995. Their largely instrumental music, by turns aggressively loud and heartbreakingly delicate, became central to the disparate, chaotic gang of bands based mainly around the Glasgow venue the 13th Note and the record label Chemikal Underground.

The explosion of talent served as a countercurrent to the very English vision of mainstream 90s indie. Britpop seemed to Braithwaite, he writes, "the complete antithesis of everything we cared for. It lacked imagination, beauty and scope." He rarely lost an opportunity to let people know it, from Mogwai's "blur: are shite" T-shirts to Braithwaite's declaration in their first NME interview that they were on "a crusade against the kind of person who chooses to be in a band not because they think people deserve to hear their music but because they want their face to be on the cover of magazines".

In the book, Braithwaite describes Arab Strap's 1996 debut album, The Week Never Starts Round Here, as "probably the first time I'd heard something that properly reflected my experience of growing up in Scotland". Before then, Braithwaite says, "even in Scotland, people would just think the Proclaimers were absolutely hilarious, because they sang in a Scottish accent ... you wonder what was going on in the national psyche, that people were embarrassed to sing in the way that they spoke."

Raised in a pro-independence family – a rarer thing in the 90s than now – Braithwaite lent his voice and his music to the yes campaign in the run-up to the 2014 Scottish referendum, and is unwavering now that a second vote is never far from the headlines. "I think I can probably count on two fingers the musicians I know who aren't pro-independence up here. When you realise that we've been ruled by Tories, despite not having voted Tory since before we were born, it kinda sinks in. Definitely the arguments against seem a lot flimsier than they did in 2014."



Braithwaite aged around 18

> **Even in Scotland, people laughed at the Proclaimers for singing in Scottish accents**

Mogwai are also committed to independence in a wider sense. Never signed to a major, they have released their albums through their own label, Rock Action, since 2010, and established their own studio, Castle of Doom, in 2005. "I would advise everyone to try to have as much control over what they do as they can in every walk of life," says Braithwaite. "It's good to know when you've made a terrible mistake that it's your own terrible mistake."

The band have just finished a run of festival dates, and Braithwaite, bolstered by the discipline of writing the book, intends, next year, to "try to write a ridiculous amount of music". Looking further afield, he still keeps alive another childhood dream, one referenced in the book's title: that of life on other planets. His late father, whose gentle, free-thinking presence comes through strongly in the book, was an amateur astronomer and Scotland's only telescope-maker, who taught his son to stargaze. In the book, he ponders the possibility of hiring someone, as Jimi Hendrix did, to watch out during Mogwai gigs for alien craft drawn to the music. So, does he still believe?

"Oh, more than ever!" he says. "Through my life, I went through periods of doubt, but the New York Times UFO expose from a few years ago threw me straight back in. I mean, I don't actually know what they are, but there's definitely weird things flying about, 100%."

While we await confirmation of intelligent life beyond the solar system, Spaceships Over Glasgow will provide comfort and inspiration to all those souls abducted by music who, like Braithwaite, have never stopped watching the skies.

Read an exclusive extract of Spaceships Over Glasgow at theguardian.com/music. Spaceships Over Glasgow is published by White Rabbit (£20) on 29 September. To buy your copy for £17.40 go to guardianbookshop.com. Delivery charges may apply.

‘If I feel her love then I feel sexy’

As her new film Both Sides of the Blade opens in cinemas, Juliette Binoche talks to **Ryan Gilbey** about carrying sperm for Claire Denis, and putting male cinema icons in their place

Broaching personal matters in an interview can be tricky. Laying the groundwork, not appearing prurient, choosing your words carefully so as not to spook your subject – all these elements are crucial. They are also completely unnecessary in the case of Juliette Binoche. We are fewer than five minutes into our Zoom call and already the 58-year-old actor is leaning forward in her seat in an office in Paris and trawling through intimate memories. “I fell in love with two men in my 20s,” she says, matter of factly. “It was unbearable. Quite unbearable.”

This is apropos Both Sides of the Blade, her third film with the sensual, uncompromising director Claire Denis. Binoche plays Sara, a radio talkshow host torn between two brooding men: her boyfriend, Jean (Vincent Lindon), and her erstwhile lover, François (Grégoire Colin). Sara and Jean have an apparently harmonious relationship, but the magnetism of François, and the past, proves impossible to resist.

All it takes for Binoche to connect this situation to her own past is one preliminary question about whether she comprehended Sara’s behaviour. How frank of her to go straight for the intimate revelations. How French.

“It’s an impossible triangle because everybody feels hurt,” she says. “Some people are able to do it. I was not. It was a destructive situation, and you need courage. So yes, I totally understood the damage it can cause. For each of us, it was painful, and you can’t stop it because that’s how it is. It’s as if you have to be in front of a dragon and you’ve just got to face it, you know?” Why couldn’t she choose between the two men in her life? “We love in different ways, if I may say,” she replies. “It’s about reaching a need inside you. When you’re in the middle of it, you don’t understand why it’s happening.”

I think of the advice given to the 14-year-old Binoche by her mother’s artist friend when she couldn’t decide whether to pursue acting or painting. “Juliette: choose to do everything!” she told her. In that instance, she did. She still paints, and her work can even be seen in some of her movies: the raging, rhapsodic 1991 love story Les Amants du Pont-Neuf, directed by her then-partner Leos Carax, in which she plays a homeless artist, or Words & Pictures, from 2013, where she stars opposite Clive Owen as an art teacher whose rheumatoid arthritis forces her to find new ways to paint.

A love triangle, though, is not the same as a career. How did she resolve that situation? “I separated out of guilt from one of the men, and then it just stopped with the other one after a while. I think because I had to destroy the relationship somehow. There was something that I pushed away from me, probably. I don’t know; it’s not as rational as that. We all have polarities. We can be in love and then the loved one has become your enemy.” The idea is reflected, she says, in the new film’s English title, (*Avec amour et acharnement* in its original French – literally With Love and Fury). “It could mean the polarity between female and male. I know it’s a title Claire loved. ‘Blade’ is such a strong word: it can kill, but in the Chinese tradition you are a master when you know how to cut well with a blade.”

Even as Sara is planning assignations with François, she is persuading Jean that there is nothing afoot. Why put them both through this torture? “She must,” says Binoche decisively. “She is facing a need in herself, a sexual call, like a wave of heat, perhaps of love. It must be gone through. She must understand what it is. If she doesn’t do that, she would be putting herself in parentheses, or … in the fridge! It’s what makes her human and truthful.”

She sounds dazed with admiration. “Allowing herself to go through that is amazing because many of us would say: ‘No, it’s too destructive,’ or, ‘I’m going to lose what I have already’. You become conservative before you even start. But when such a big wave is coming, it’s hard not to say yes to it, I think. She is asking to have that freedom to be herself, not knowing what the result will be. That’s so brave. And terrible! I know how painful and dangerous it can be.”

The risk-taking extends to choosing roles, too. “I don’t think you try to put yourself into difficult situations,” she says. “But creation is about going to a new place. Facing difficulty. I try not to repeat myself because it feels like you’re going to *die!*” She laughs, rolling her eyes at her dramatic choice of language.

In her 40-year career, more conventional films such as Chocolat and The Horseman on the Roof tend to be outnumbered by riskier enterprises, from her three films with Carax (Mauvais Sang and The Night Is Young are the others) to her dry-eyed study of grief in Three Colours Blue (“No tears, never any tears,” the director Krzysztof Kieślowski told her) and her tender, Oscar-winning performance in The English Patient.

If anything, she has become more adventurous with age. Look at her mysteriously mutable work in Abbas Kiarostami’s puzzling Certified Copy, for which she won the best actress prize at Cannes, and Olivier Assayas’s Clouds of Sils Maria, where she and Kristen Stewart have a hypnotic rapport as, respectively, a revered actor and the PA on whom she depends. There are her two jangling thrillers for Michael Haneke (Hidden and Code Unknown), as well as Bruno Dumont’s twisted, oddball comedy Slack Bay, her first foray into slapstick. All this and Antigone on stage for Ivo van Hove.

Perhaps it is the nonchalance with which she moves between those innovative projects and mainstream detours such as Ghost in the Shell, Godzilla and the forthcoming Paradise Highway that has left her with less of a daredevil reputation than, say, Isabelle Huppert. Or simply the fact that she seems not to have put her neck on the line as definitively as Huppert did with Elle or The Piano Teacher.

Both Sides of the Blade, which reveals Binoche at her most intense and unreadable, may be the film to change that. If any director could facilitate such a transformation it would be Denis, who has already cast her as an artist seeking love in Let the Sunshine In, and in High Life as a crazed doctor engaged in reproductive experiments with death-row prisoners deep in space. “Douching is for amateurs!” she declares in one scene; in another, Robert Pattinson christens her “the shaman of sperm”.



PHOTOGRAPHS: CHARLIE DE KEERSMAECKER/CAMERA PRESS/FIGARO

Even though Gérard has had a huge career, there’s still a little boy inside

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'Creation is about going to a new place … facing difficulty'

Binoche admires her director's curious, inquisitive approach. "It's the way Claire looks for the shot," she says. "She chooses it with her feelings, rather than thinking 'wide shot, closeup'. It's not logical. That I like." Denis said in 2017 that Binoche is "sexier than any young girl on the red carpet". Can the actor feel that when she is being directed by her? "Well, if I feel her love then I feel sexy. You feel more confident. You want to push yourself forward."

Her director's forthright nature seems to embolden her. The most outre scenes in High Life (2018) involve "the box", a sexy Tardis inside which carnal pleasure is dispensed, a bit like the Orgasmatron from Sleeper. "It was so mad!" gasps Binoche. "How can you even think of that in a script? But we did it with humour and love and care, I would say, and freedom. You have to trust and go for it." Another scene required her to carry a sperm sample. "I asked Claire, 'But how am I going to hold it?'" Her voice sounds shrill and panicky. "She said: 'Like this.'" She presents her hands serenely, palms upwards. "And I thought: 'Ah, of course. This is such a fantasy of hers!'"

Shooting with the grave, grizzled Vincent Lindon in Both Sides of the Blade wasn't half as much fun. "With Vincent, it was not always easy. As actors, we are quite different. But I bet Claire knew that." She wags a playful finger at the webcam. "I don't think she was naive!" What was the problem? "I felt Vincent was insecure. And because of that, he was trying to control the situation. Some women would retreat, but I felt as the character I had to confront him. I don't know Vincent. But I know we had to confront each other and that was not easy for either of us."



With Vincent Lindon in Both Sides of the Blade

At least it wasn't her first time putting a titan of French cinema in his place. Shortly after Binoche won her prize at Cannes in 2010, she was disparaged in the press by Gérard Depardieu, who asked: "Please can you explain to me what the mystery of Juliette Binoche is meant to be?" before concluding that "she has nothing - absolutely nothing".

Did he apologise? "Hmm," she says ruefully. "About three months after he made those declarations, I bumped into him in the street and I said: 'Gérard - why were you so mean to me?' He said: 'Oh forget about it, I say stupid things. Don't take it personally.' I told him: 'OK but at the end of the day, I had to deal with it. And it's really not cool.' He said: 'Well, I'm just upset with the directors you're working with.'"

Her mouth is agape now. "I asked him: 'What are you talking about?' He said: 'Oh, Leos Carax and Michael Haneke. You're working with these perverse directors.' Then he corrected himself: 'Well, OK, Michael did The White Ribbon, and that was quite good …'" She looks confused, incredulous and exasperated all at once: the precise expression of someone expecting an apology only to be met with meaningless waffle. She raises a hand as if to say: Enough! "I said: 'OK, OK - goodbye.' Then as I walked off, I realised: 'Perverse directors? He worked with Maurice Pialat and Bertrand Blier! What is he talking about?'"

She has no illusions about what prompted the outburst. "I think he was feeling jealous because I'd just received the award in Cannes. He was hurt because I had made him deal with too many things." It was especially bruising because Depardieu had been one of her first points of contact in the industry. As an aspiring performer, she had visited the set of his historical drama Danton in 1982, three years before her breakthrough role at the age of 20 in Jean-Luc Godard's Hail Mary.

"I was 17 and still at school," she recalls. "My father's friend was working on Danton. Gérard came to me and said: 'What are you doing here?' I told him: 'I'm just observing, I want to be an actress.' He said: 'Work on your classics.' So he was such an important figure in my life. And then all these years later he … how do you say?" She's miming a left hook to her own chin. Punch? "Yes! He punched a fist in my face. And it injured me."

Denis brought the two actors together in the final scene of Let the Sunshine In, with Depardieu as a fortune teller urging Binoche on to greater romantic exploration. "We had a very nice time," she smiles. Then her mood turns serious. "You have to forgive. Love is stronger and it transforms everything. That is just a fact. And to stay in love makes me happier than to stay with anger or frustration. Even though Gérard has had a huge career, there's still a little boy inside. And we must all take care of our little ones." Trust her to see both sides. *Both Sides of the Blade is in cinemas now. See review p12.*

Little Warrior

Johana Gómez, a young Venezuelan boxing champion, sets her sights on escaping poverty with the help of Edinburgh-based trainer, Gary Young.



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The Guardian DOCUMENTARIES



Peter Bradshaw's film of the week

Crimes of the Future



Post-pain, post-sex body horror sensation

★★★★☆

Dir *David Cronenberg*

Starring *Viggo Mortensen, Léa Seydoux, Kristen Stewart*

108 mins **Cert** *18*

"Let nothing be called natural in an age of bloody confusion," said Brecht; after this film, things look bloodier and more confused than ever. David Cronenberg's new movie is a body-horror atrocity exhibition in the Ballardian style that he gave us in Crash (1996).

This is set in an eerie future world in which people's bodies are changing and everyone is beginning to divine that they are on the brink of a post-human evolutionary stage. Developments in medicine have diminished physical sensation to the extent that pain is a thing of the past, so much so that it is sought after by a new breed of sicko sybarites, but conventional sensual pleasure is withering away and so too the disgust and fear that has always moderated human behaviour. Along with this, bodies themselves are capable of growing new organs, whose function is not yet clear.

Viggo Mortensen plays Saul, a performance artist whose body is fertile with new organs. His girlfriend, former trauma surgeon Caprice (Léa Seydoux) helps him cultivate these – he sleeps and eats in bizarre carbuncular cradles, which look as if Gaudí designed ICU hospital beds. Periodically she gets her scalpel out and removes Saul's post-Anthropocene organs and tattoos them in front of a live audience (who are presumably paying for the privilege, although the ordinary pre-post-human issue of how Saul and Caprice are earning a living is not explicitly discussed).

They are required to report to an official government unit tasked with monitoring this sort of thing, where we find nervily intense Timlin (an excellent performance from Kristen Stewart). She mutters to Caprice that "surgery is the new sex" and tries kissing Saul, who replies evasively: "I'm not very good at the old sex." (Although the dictates of the old sex mean in this film attractive young women take their clothes off quite a lot.)

In some sense, Crimes of the Future is an operatically huge black comedy of outrage. The director has said this is not a remake of his 1970 film of the same name, but there are obvious points of similarity, with themes of transgression, the clinical manipulation of sexuality, body fetish and weird gloopy stuff coming out of people's mouths. A movie about a human world so impervious to traditional calamity that it is evolving its own occult inner galaxy of sensation is maybe obtuse given that we have not yet quite emerged from a global pandemic. At all events, it's an extraordinary planet that Cronenberg lands us down on.

Both Sides of the Blade

★★★☆☆

Dir *Claire Denis*

Starring *Juliette Binoche, Vincent Lindon, Grégoire Colin*

117 mins **Cert** *15*

Claire Denis's new film is a seductively indirect love triangle, a drama of the mind as much as the heart. It's intriguing if contrived and anticlimactic, though acted at the highest pitch of sensual conviction. The English title comes from a Tindersticks track composed for this film about the lacerating agony of an impossible choice ("I'm sliding down both sides of the blade").

Juliette Binoche is Sara, a presenter on a highbrow Paris radio talk show, who for 10 years has lived with Jean (the smoulderingly rumpled Vincent Lindon), a former sports star. The third corner of the triangle is François (Grégoire Colin), Sara's ex-lover. One morning outside the studio, Sara glimpses François in the street and all her old feelings are devastatingly reignited.

The movie interestingly shows that when a person is having an affair, they are capable of the most profound emotional doublethink. This person is able to be happy in the marriage and yet also passionately infatuated with the other person. We see her indignantly deny Jean's accusations with all the integrity and tearful, injured innocence that Binoche can project so convincingly.

It takes almost an effort of will to remember what we have just seen of her with François. Did it really happen? But Sara's denials are real as well: entirely sincere, if self-deluding, in the moment. This is a film with plenty of ideas, some less than fully formed.



See How They Run

★★★★☆

Dir *Tom George*

Starring *Saoirse Ronan, Sam Rockwell, Harris Dickinson*

98 mins **Cert** *12A*

Being threatened, as we are, with an endless string of ropey yet lucrative Agatha Christie movies with Kenneth Branagh phoning in anuzzer rurbeesh turrrn as the Belgian sleuth, this comedy is a relief. It's a likably silly whodunnit spoof from screenwriter Mark Chappell, centred on Christie's long-running play The Mousetrap, and an imagined brutal homicide that took place backstage in its London West End theatre in 1953.

A brash Hollywood director played by Adrien Brody is found horribly murdered in the costume department. Sam Rockwell and Saiorse Ronan have a droll sort of platonic police chemistry as the investigating officers: Inspector Stoppard (a nod to Tom Stoppard's own spoof meta-mystery The Real Inspector Hound) and his overeager assistant, Constable Stalker, possibly a homage to Tarkovsky or to the former deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester. Tim Key is very funny as the glowering Met police commissioner.

The forces of law and order face the usual pasteboard galère of poutingly resentful suspects among the Mousetrap cast – including young Dickie Attenborough, who really was the Inspector in the original run, and here played very entertainingly by Harris Dickinson.



There's a very appealing daftness and theatre nerdery to See How They Run (the title sounds uncomfortably like Run For Your Wife) as director Tom George takes the same approach to The Mousetrap that Ken Russell took to The Boyfriend: playing up the artificiality of it all. The comedy is shallow in the right way, and Rockwell's bleary world-weariness contrasts nicely with Ronan's saucer-eyed idealism. I think George may also be aiming for a Wes Anderson-ish approach – although not so much that you'd notice, and this may just be the presence of Ronan. This is a disposable film with no pretensions but a lot of laughs.

Games



Cult of the Lamb

PC, PS 4/5, Xbox, Nintendo Switch

★★★★★

In the first few moments of this runaway summer hit, the protagonist is sacrificed and summoned back to life as an emissary of an imprisoned forgotten God. Your job is clear: gather devotees to worship the eldritch being and murder the four heretic bishops who oppose him. It's no small ask for a tiny sheep who has already been slaughtered. But the tables turn quickly in your favour.

Cult of the Lamb is a game of two parts. One half is a dungeon crawler. You move through each of the bishops' winding realms towards its leader, whom you need to defeat to free your own God from his chains. Weapons are chosen for you and power-ups are determined by randomly selected tarot cards.

The other half is cult-management. Your worshippers need to be fed, cleaned, housed and preached to. They need jobs to do, graves to be buried in – and in return they feed you prayer, which makes you physically stronger as you go out on conquests.

The pressure of growing and keeping a thriving cult offers a perfect counterpoint to the winding, high-intensity dungeon portions of the game. You can't spend too long in the grimy depths; you have to emerge from these wars to spend a little time fishing or playing dice with your followers, or they will lose faith. The game feels large but not unwieldy, and it is almost troublingly compelling.

The overall effect is darkly, fascinatingly cute: mall-goth meets folk horror. Cult of the Lamb has already amassed more than a million sales in the first week of its crusade, for good reason. There's little doubt that the flock will only continue to grow.

Sarah Maria Griffin



Alexis Petridis's album of the week

Ozzy Osbourne Patient Number 9



Heavy metal hero refuses to fade to black

Rock

Label Epic

★★★★☆

"I'll never die, because I'm immortal," sings Ozzy Osbourne on the second track of his 13th solo album. It's not the last time Patient Number 9 mentions cheating death: "I'm coming out of my grave … you're going to see my face," he sings on No Escape from Now, while One of Those Days has him "killing myself - but I never die". You could say all this seems par for the course, more of the supernatural hokum that has been part of the Ozzy Osbourne brand since Black Sabbath first appeared.

But you can understand why Osbourne might be preoccupied with cheating death. It's not just that he has been plagued by health problems in recent years - Parkinson's disease and several surgeries among them - it's that every project Osbourne has involved himself in recently has had an air of finality about it: even Osbourne's last solo album, 2020's Ordinary Man, was reviewed as if it was his last. But here he is, two years on and reunited with Ordinary Man producer Andrew Watt, who's audibly a fan and thoroughly enjoying himself, slathering on the Planet Caravan-esque vocal effects during No Escape from Now and getting Eric Clapton to play on One of Those Days in a wah-pedal heavy style that's, thrillingly, closer to his work with Cream than his solo oeuvre.

Clapton is part of an all-star supporting cast that also includes Tony Iommi, Josh Homme and the late Taylor Hawkins. The sound of the album, meanwhile, manages to be current - there's a daringly glaring use of Auto-Tune here and there - while flicking skilfully between Sabbath-esque sludge, glossier pop-metal and the odd intriguing detour, most notably the string-laden A Thousand Shades, which delves into Osbourne's lifelong Beatles fandom. The songs are tightly written even when their structure tends to the episodic or their tempos shift gear. They're also finely balanced, the choruses big and bold enough to attract attention but not overshadow the main attraction's essential essence. Osbourne's bleakly desperate wail is front and centre, his lyrical preoccupations intact: as well as the occult, there's a lot about mental illness and a light sprinkling of War Pigs-y stuff about the futility of conflict and the evil of those in power: "a circus of madmen running the show", "destruction never leads to change". Occasionally, you wonder if the lyrics might not be rooted in Osbourne's medical travails: it doesn't seem beyond the realms of possibility that Evil Shuffle's "madman living inside me" that "won't let me go" is inspired by his experience of Parkinson's.



And occasionally the lyrics boggle the mind, which brings us to Degradation Rules, musically the album's highlight: it features Iommi and peers past Black Sabbath's "godfathers of metal" tag to their roots as a kind of warped, heavy blues-rock band. It's also a song on which Osbourne counsels his listeners against the dangers of excessive wanking. When he starts wailing about "masturbating fools" you initially think it's a metaphor, perhaps for self-interested politicians - maybe the masturbating fools are in league with the circus of madmen running the show - but no: he's literally talking about people who can't stop masturbating. "The hand that feeds you also turns you blind," he warns. Not that old chestnut.

By way of contrast, Patient Number 9 draws to a close with God Only Knows, a beautiful stadium rock ballad that features Osbourne contemplating his own mortality in terms that are alternately starkly affecting - "I don't know if I'll make it, but I'm giving up control" - and theatrical: "It's better to burn in hell than fade away," he sings, a perfectly Ozzy-esque retooling of the old Neil Young lyric. It's tempting to say it sounds like an elegiac farewell, and that the album it concludes would be a fine way to say goodbye. But then again, we've been there before with Ozzy Osbourne, several times.

Artist Mabe Fratti

Album Se Ve Desde Aquí

Label Unheard of Hope

Global album of the month

★★★★☆



On her latest album, Se Ve Desde Aquí, Guatemalan cellist and composer Mabe Fratti re-enters the world after lockdown, supplanting her supple arrangements with a process that seeks to embrace self-expression. Recording without overdubs, Fratti sets a direct and forceful new tone. Opener Con Esfuerzo eschews the cocoon-like tonal warmth of Fratti's typical layered string sections, instead placing a reverberating synth line over scattered hits of snares and angular guitar lines. Desde El Cielo continues the staccato feel, with Fratti singing a plaintive melody over a disintegrating rhythm section.

Much of the album's fractal tone comes from vintage synths, such as the undulating chords of the Yamaha CS-60 on No Se Ve Desde Acá, or the room-filling buzz of a Korg on Deja De Empujar. Her soft vocals atop these can jar, but when each track finds its harmony, the effect is cathartic. In these moments we find joy in her experimental looseness. There might be more noise in this new world, but Fratti has found a way to see a distinct beauty in its rawness. **Ammar Kalia**

R&B

Artist George Riley

Album Running in Waves

Label PLZ Make It Ruins

★★★★☆



Running in Waves is London musician George Riley's second record, and her collaborator of choice is Vegyn, the British producer best known for his work with Frank Ocean. It's an engaging link-up that finds Riley fully immersed in Vegyn's polished soundscapes. Some tracks feature gliding strings, others electronic glitches. The result is a gorgeous, softly futuristic R&B tape. Where Riley finds distinction here is in her frank subject matter: her desire for boundaries and acknowledgments that she needs to be comfortable with being alone. On album closer Desire she examines the undulating patterns of her life over a cascading melody. It's a song filled with the rippling vocals that make Running in Waves such an impressive release. **Tara Joshi**

Classical

Artist Ensemble Modern Orchestra/Vimbayi Kaziboni

Album Heiner Goebbels: A House of Call

Label ECM

★★★★★



Heiner Goebbels's "phonographic collection from my imaginary notebook" is a cycle of invocations, prayers, poems and songs for large orchestra. The score creates a space in which recorded voices sourced from wax cylinders, news reports and ethnographic sources can be given a political or historical context, and a musical response. There are references here to Samuel Beckett and Heiner Müller, Sufi poet Rumi and the Armenian composer Komitas, with field recordings from Amazonia and Namibia. The 15 movements include pounding jazz-rock, through edgy rhythmic dislocations straight out of Stravinsky to disintegrating textures on the edges of music, but there are moments of delicacy too, when just a solo instrument underpins a chant or a distant choir. It is a fascinating, strikingly beautiful work. **Andrew Clements**

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Dylan Moran and Morgana Robinson as Dan and Carla

Review Stuck, BBC Two

In a long-term relationship? You'll never feel so seen

★★★★★



Lucy Mangan

As we all know, romantic tales generally end with the wedding. And, as we all know equally well – or at least those who are married do – there are reasons for that. Dylan Moran's new creation, Stuck, deftly illustrates them all in five short episodes (a quarter of an hour or so each) about the daily lives of Dan (Moran) and Carla (Morgana Robinson).

They are not technically married but have been together long enough to amount to the same thing. He is decidedly middle-aged ("Oh my God!" Carla gasps at one point as she grabs his head. "I'm holding something that was alive in the 70s. Were there dragons?" and his moobs are a matter of horrified fascination to them both), she is – crucially – about a decade younger. She has a zest for life, partly down to age, partly down to temperament. She would like to move to a nicer place – he probably would, too, but the flat's worth nothing – and maybe have a baby, or at least a cat, and she is doing well at work. He, by the end of the first outing, has been fired from his job at an ad agency where he appears to have been so dissatisfied that this does not come as a surprise to anyone. "Don't worry," he tells her when he breaks the news. "You'll take care of us."

It doesn't have the antic edge or the surreal element of Black Books, but in many ways it is vintage Moran. Dan and Carla's relationship harks back to the one between Moran and the late, great Charlotte Coleman in their pairing for Simon Nye's sitcom How Do You Want Me? in the late 90s; curmudgeon Ian trying not to disappoint his ebullient partner Lisa too much, and her accepting him in the round and both of them getting a bit more out of life together than they would separately.

Stuck also has the weary realism of Moran's standup rather than bookseller Bernard's enraged eccentricity or Ian's growing fear of Lisa's borderline violent family. Such realism of course doesn't mean it's not piercingly acute and very, very funny – as anyone who has watched him "ramble" on stage knows.

Naturalistic dialogue is Moran's forte and Dan and Carla's rolling conversations unerringly capture the essence of their – of every – long-term relationship. Loving, casual, practical, daft by turns, dipping in and out of rudeness, taking refuge in and telling truths via jokes ("Yeah," says Dan in answer to the dragon question, "Was tricky putting out the bins.") – all of human life is here.

Very little happens, apart from everything, save maybe the episode in which Carla's ex, Maya (Eleanor Fanyinka), gives her and Dan a spliff and they go shoplifting in "the magic forest". It's their term for the independent, massively expensive deli nearby (she goes in to hold jars of costly preserves to her face and croon and frankly, I have never felt so seen).

The highest-voltage moments are provided by Carla's jittery boss Joy (Juliet Cowan), who has built a holistic wellness brand despite finding her lifestyle coach husband unbearable and being unable herself to meditate or relax in any way. "I just want to be left alone and smash my face into a plate of black forest gateau," she hisses, and maybe it's then that I've never felt so seen.

The surrounding tale, as Dan's unemployment and Carla's success continues and Maya returns to the latter's life, is of the toll that unfair labour-sharing can take on a relationship. It speaks of the constant navigating that must go on between all but the very luckiest of soulmates, how you can grow apart (for a while?) and together again (for a while?), the temptations we face, the weaknesses we have and how much life is made up of compromises rather than dramatic moments or striking out for the hills. And how difficult it is to get pills out of a doctor, even if he is an old friend and willing enough to try to double your severance pay at the gaming tables after work.

If muted palettes aren't your thing, you might not find much to get stuck into Stuck. But for those of us who love nothing more than comedy vignettes into which both the fleeting pleasures of life and its enduring melancholy have been distilled – well, you're going to want to smash your face into it as if it were a plateful of deliciously moist cake.

Munich Games
9pm, Sky Atlantic



This month marks 50 years since Palestinian terrorists killed 12 people at the 1972 Munich Olympics. In this six-part political thriller, a friendly football match between an Israeli and a German team is planned to commemorate the attack. However, this prompts another threat of terrorism. Mossad agent Oren Simon (Yousef "Joe" Sweid) teams up with no-nonsense German police officer Maria Köehler (Seyneb Saleh, *above*) to trace who has been making cyber threats. Tonight's double bill is packed with tension, mistrust and action – plus a bonus pinch of raunch.

Hollie Richardson



And another thing

Workmen have left me without wifi, and the consequent TV-less evenings stretch into infinity. I don't know how medieval peasants managed

Hobby Man
8pm, Channel 4
In his last attempt to find a hobby this season, Alex Brooker invites Andi Oliver to Yorkshire. They show a surprising amount of enthusiasm at York's National Rail Museum, then head over to the Yorkshire Gliding Club near Thirsk – where Oliver declares: "That was one of the best things I've ever done!" **HR**

Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing
9pm, BBC Two
The rod squad – Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer – return for a fifth season. In tonight's opener, they travel to the River Exe in Devon in search of the grilse, known as the "summer silver". **HR**

Gogglebox
9pm, Channel 4
Celebrities are all very well, but no one calls it like it is better than the sofa savants of Gogglebox's original, ordinary folk. Series 20 sees the return of favourites such as the Siddiqui family and Lee and Jenny, after Jenny's hospital stay. Welcome back, old friends! **Ellen E Jones**

Canada's Drag Race
9pm, BBC Three
Poutine on the glitz: season three of the Canadian RuPaul spin-off reaches its climax, with ice-hockey Olympic gold medallist Sarah Nurse on board as guest judge. The queens are tasked with writing and recording their own verse for a particularly fierce remix of the national anthem. **Graeme Virtue**

Martin Compston's Scottish Fling
9.30pm, BBC Two
A new series in which Line of Duty's Martin Compston and friend Phil MacHugh take a road trip around Scotland, starting with a journey along the west coast: crazy golf and ice-cream in the seaside town of Dunoon, cliff-jumping on the Knoydart peninsula and the "ultimate selfie" in Loch Lomond. **Ali Catterall**

BBC One

6.0 **Breakfast** (T) **9.15** Morning Live (T) **10.0** Maximum Security (T) **10.45** Claimed and Shamed (T) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (T) (R) **12.15** Bargain Hunt (T) **1.0** News (T) **1.30** Regional News and Weather (T) **1.45** Doctors (T) **2.15** Money for Nothing (T) **3.0** Escape to the Country (T) (R) **3.45** Garden Rescue (T) (R) **4.30** The Bidding Room (T) **5.15** Pointless (T) (R) **6.0** News (T) **6.30** Regional News and Weather (T) **7.0** The One Show (T) **7.30** Our Lives (T)

8.0 **Question of Sport** (T) With Mark Foster, Katy Daley-McLean and Bruce Mouat.
8.30 **Celebrity MasterChef** (T) Restaurant critic Grace Dent delivers a challenging brief.
9.0 **Have I Got News for You** (T) With journalist Helen Lewis.
9.30 **Not Going Out** (T) (R) Toby organises a sponsored parachute jump.

10.0 **News** (T)
10.30 **Regional News** (T) Weather
10.40 FILM **Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge** (Espen Sandberg & Joachim Rønning, 2017) (T) Ghost scavengers escape the Devil's Triangle. Fantasy, starring Johnny Depp.
12.40 **Weather for the Week Ahead** (T) **12.45** News (T)

BBC Two

6.30 **Escape to the Country** (T) (R) **7.15** The Bidding Room (T) (R) **8.0** Sign Zone: The Repair Shop (T) (R) **9.0** BBC News (T) **12.15** Politics Live (T) **1.0** Chase the Case (T) (R) **1.45** Eggheads (T) (R) **2.15** FILM The Remains of the Day (James Ivory, 1993) (T) **4.25** Natural World: Jungle Animal Hospital (T) (R) **4.30** Wanted: A Simple Life (T) (R) **5.15** Flog It! (T) (R) **6.0** Richard Osman's House of Games (T) **6.30** Unbeatable (T) **7.0** Cricket: Today at the Test (T)

8.0 **Gardeners' World** (T) A look at the role gardeners can play in helping wildlife.
9.0 **Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing** (T) New series. Paul Whitehouse and Bob Mortimer visit the River Exe.
9.30 **Martin Compston's Scottish Fling** (T) New series. The actor explores Scotland with TV presenter Phil MacHugh.

10.0 **Live at the Apollo** (T) (R) With Jen Brister, Esther Manito and Adam Rowe.
10.30 **Newsnight** (T) Weather
11.05 **MOTDx** (T) Jermaine Jenas presents football chat.
11.35 **Stewart Lee: Snowflake** (T) (R) Standup performance.
12.35 **Sign Zone** Panorama: The Energy Crisis – Who's Cashing in (R) **1.05** This Is BBC Two (T)

ITV

6.0 **Good Morning Britain** (T) **9.0** Lorraine (T) **10.0** This Morning (T) **12.30** Loose Women (T) **1.30** News and Weather (T) **1.55** Local News and Weather (T) **2.0** Dickinson's Real Deal (T) (R) **3.0** Tenable (T) (R) **4.0** Tipping Point (T) **5.0** The Chase (T) **6.0** Local News and Weather (T) **6.30** News and Weather (T) **7.30** Emmerdale (T)

8.30 **Coronation Street** (T) Saira approaches Toyah in the street and accuses her of murdering Imran, while James is told he will be fitted with an ICD to prevent further cardiac arrests.
9.30 **The 1% Club** (T) (R) Quiz hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense.

10.25 **News** (T) Weather
10.55 **Local News** (T) Weather
11.10 **The NFL Show** (T) Highlights of the opening match of the season between Buffalo Bills and Los Angeles Rams.
12.10 **Shop: Ideal World 3.0** Save Money: Lose Weight (T) (R) **3.50** Unwind With ITV (T) **5.05** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show (T) (R)

Channel 4

6.10 **Countdown** (T) (R) **6.50** 3rd Rock from the Sun (T) (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (T) (R) **9.0** Frasier (T) (R) **10.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) (R) **11.25** News (T) **11.30** The Great House Giveaway (T) (R) **12.30** Steph's Packed Lunch (T) **2.10** Countdown (T) **3.0** A Place in the Sun (T) (R) **4.0** Chateau DIY (T) **5.0** Moneybags (T) **6.0** The Simpsons (T) (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks (T) (R) **7.0** News (T)

8.0 **Hobby Man** (T) Chef Andi Oliver joins Alex Brooker on a trip that sees them explore the world of model railways, try out gliding and learn a little salsa.
9.0 **Gogglebox** (T) New series. The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week.

10.0 **The Last Leg** (T) Topical satire, with guests Richard Ayoade and Aisling Bea.
11.05 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown** (T) (R)
12.10 **One Night in London Zoo** (T) (R) **1.05** Ramy (T) **1.35** Ramy (T) **2.10** FILM First Love (Takashi Miike, 2019) (T) Japanese crime drama. **4.0** Come Dine With Me (T) (R)

Channel 5

6.0 **Milkshake! 9.15** Jeremy Vine (T) **12.45** Holiday Homes in the Sun (T) **1.40** News at Lunchtime (T) **1.45** Home and Away (T) **2.15** FILM A Mother's Terror (Jeff Hare, 2021) (T) **4.0** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (T) (R) **5.0** News (T) **6.0** Cash in the Attic (T) **6.55** News (T) **7.0** Susan Calman's Grand Days Out in Cornwall (T) (R) **7.55** News (T)

8.0 **The Cotswolds & Beyond With Pam Ayres** (T) The poet's journey begins at Highclere Castle, now better known as Downton Abbey.
9.0 **Digging for Treasure: Tonight** (T) The team have permission to set up camp near Fincham in Norfolk, hoping to find some Saxon and Viking artefacts.

10.0 FILM **The Enforcer** (James Fargo, 1976) (T)
11.55 **Clint Eastwood: The Man & the Movies** (T) (R)
1.15 **The Live Casino Show** (T) **3.15** Traffic Cops (T) (R) **4.0** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (T) (R) **4.50** The Yorkshire Vet: Young Farmers Special (R) **5.35** Paw Patrol (R) **5.50** Fireman Sam (R)

BBC Four

7.0 **Top of the Pops** (T) (R) With Joey Lawrence, Deborah Harry and New Order. **7.30** Top of the Pops (T) (R) With Haddaway, Michael Jackson and Kim Wilde.

8.0 **Nicola Benedetti Plays Wynton Marsalis at the Proms** (T) At the Royal Albert Hall, violinist Nicola Benedetti performs Wynton Marsalis's Violin Concerto, which was written for her. The Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conducted by Thomas Søndergård, also play Bernstein and Britten.

10.10 **The Pretenders: Radio 2 Live at Home** (T) (R) A rock gig from Chrissie Hynde and co.
10.40 **Arena: Alone With Chrissie Hynde** (T) (R) Intimate portrait of the rock musician.
12.10 **Totally British: 70s Rock'n'Roll** (T) (R) **2.10** Top of the Pops (T) (R) **3.10** The Pretenders: Radio 2 Live at Home (T) (R)

Other channels

BBC Three

7.0pm FILM The Incredibles (2004) **8.45** The Catch Up **8.50** Corey Baker's Dance Race **9.0** Canada's Drag Race **10.0** Some Girls **11.30** Squad Goals: Britain's Youngest Football Boss **12.0** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond **12.30** Dubai Hustle **1.0** Some Girls **2.25** People Just Do Nothing

Dave

6.0am Teleshopping **7.10** Yianni: Supercar Customiser **7.35** Yianni: Supercar Customiser **8.0** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **9.0** Storage Hunters UK **10.0** Cop Car Workshop **11.0** Expedition With Steve Backshall **12.0** Bangers and Cash **1.0** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **2.0** Top Gear **3.0** Rick Stein's Secret France **4.0** Top Gear **5.0** Rick Stein's Secret France **6.0** Taskmaster **7.0** Richard Osman's House of Games **7.40** Room 101 **8.20** Room 101 **9.0** QI XL **10.0** Mock the Week **10.40** Would I Lie to You? At Christmas **11.20** Would I Lie to You? **12.0** Mock the Week **12.40** QI **1.20** QI XL **2.30** Room 101 **3.0** Room 101 **4.0** Teleshopping

E4

6.0am Hollyoaks **7.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **8.0** Black-ish **9.0** How I Met Your Mother **10.0** The Big Bang Theory **11.0** Young Sheldon **12.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.0** The Big Bang Theory **3.0** Young Sheldon **4.0** Married at First Sight UK **5.15** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.0** Hollyoaks **7.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.0** Lego Masters **9.0** FILM Rough Night (2017) **11.05** Naked Attraction **1.15** First Dates Hotel **2.20** Below Deck: Mediterranean **3.10** Gogglebox **4.05** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.55** Baby Daddy

Film4

11.0am FILM The Fighting Seabees (1944) Second world war drama, starring John Wayne. **1.05** FILM Cat Ballou (1965) Musical comedy western, starring Jane Fonda and Lee Marvin. **3.0** FILM At Gunpoint (1955) Western, starring Fred MacMurray. **4.40** FILM This Happy Breed (1944) Drama, starring Robert Newton and Celia Johnson. **6.55** FILM Keeping Up With the Joneses (2016) Action comedy, starring Zach Galifianakis. **9.0** FILM The Sum of All Fears (2002) Action thriller, starring Ben Affleck and Morgan Freeman. **11.20** FILM True History of the Kelly Gang (2019) Period drama, starring George MacKay and Essie Davis. **1.55** FILM Buried (2010) Thriller, starring Ryan Reynolds.

ITV2

6.0am World's Funniest Videos **6.25** World's Funniest Videos **7.0** Love Bites **8.0** Dress to Impress **9.0** Veronica Mars **10.0** One Tree Hill **11.0** Hart of Dixie **12.0** Supermarket Sweep **1.0** Family Fortunes **2.0** The Masked Singer US **3.05** Veronica Mars **4.0** One Tree Hill **5.0** Hart of Dixie **6.0** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.0** Superstore **7.30** Superstore **8.0** Bob's Burgers **8.30** Bob's Burgers **9.0** FILM The Fast and the Furious (2001) Thriller, starring Vin Diesel and Paul Walker. **11.15** Family Guy **11.45** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **12.40** American Dad! **1.10** Bob's Burgers **1.40** Bob's Burgers **2.10** All American **3.0** Teleshopping

Sky Max

6.0am Stargate SG-1 **8.0** The Flash **9.0** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **10.0** Supergirl **11.0** NCIS: New Orleans **1.0** Hawaii Five-0 **2.0** MacGyver **3.0** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **4.0** The Flash **5.0** Supergirl **6.0** Stargate SG-1 **8.0** Freddie Fries Again **9.0** Rob & Romesh vs Ballet **10.0** Banshee **11.0** The Blacklist **12.0** A League of Their Own **1.0** The Russell Howard Hour **1.45** Road Wars **2.40** Road Wars **3.10** Hawaii Five-0 **4.05** MacGyver **5.0** Highway Patrol **5.30** Highway Patrol

Sky Arts

6.0am André Rieu: And the Waltz Goes On **9.0** Tales of the Unexpected **10.0** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **10.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.0** Discovering: Claudia Cardinale **12.0** Rudyard Kipling: A Secret Life **1.0** Tales of the Unexpected **2.0** Sky Arts Book Club **3.0** Portrait Artist of the Year 2014 **4.0** Discovering: Walter Matthau **5.0** Tales of the Unexpected **5.30** Tales of the Unexpected **6.0** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.0** Berlin Live: Simple Minds **8.20** FILM David Gilmour: Live at Pompeii (2017) **9.40** Freddie Mercury: The Great Pretender **11.20** The Ronnie Wood Show **11.50** The Ronnie Wood Show **12.20** Live from the Artists Den **1.35** Classic Artists: Jethro Tull **4.0** Discovering: Jethro Tull **4.30** Discovering: Genesis **5.0** Cheltenham Literature Festival

Sky Atlantic

6.0am Storm City **7.45** Boardwalk Empire **10.0** The Sopranos **12.15** Six Feet Under **2.25** Game of Thrones **3.30** Boardwalk Empire **5.45** The Sopranos **7.55** Game of Thrones **9.0** Munich Games **11.0** House of the Dragon **12.05** We Own This City **1.15** The Wire **2.20** Treme **3.35** In Treatment **4.0** Storm City


True History of the Kelly Gang, Film4

Radio

Radio 3

6.30am Breakfast **9.0** Essential Classics **12.0** Composer of the Week: Schubert (5/5) **1.0** Lunchtime Concert. Performances from tenor Alessandro Fisher, baritone James Newby and soprano Soraya Mafi with pianist Simon Lepper, from the Northern Ireland Opera Festival of Voice 2022. **2.0** Afternoon Concert. A 25 August Prom, with the BBC SO performing Lalo's Le Roi d'Ys Overture, Brahms's Violin Concerto and Franck's Symphony in D minor. **4.30** The Listening Service (R) **5.0** In Tune. Cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason plays live. **7.0** In Tune Mixtape. **7.30** BBC Proms 2022: Prom 71. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts the Philadelphia Orchestra and violinist Lisa Batiashvili in Rachmaninov's The Isle of the Dead, Chausson's Poème, Saint-Saëns' Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, and Florence Price's Symphony No 1 in E minor. **10.0** Sunday Feature: The Silence of My Pain. Hannah French discusses her experiences of living with chronic pain. (R) **10.45** The Way I See It (R) **11.0** Late Junction **1.0** Piano Flow With Lianne La Havas (R) **2.0** Happy Harmonies With Laufey (R) **3.0** Through the Night

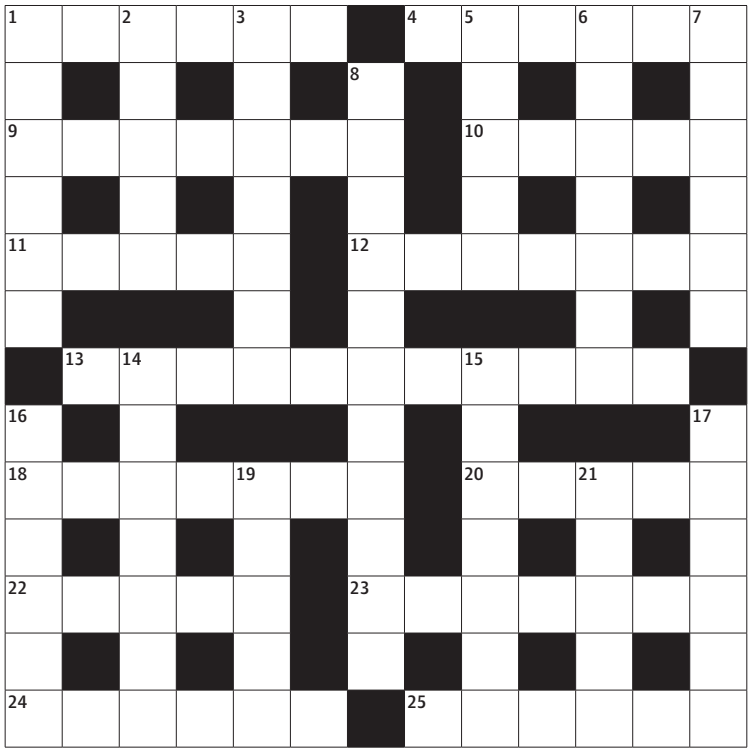
Radio 4

6.0am Today **8.31** (LW) Yesterday in Parliament **9.0** The Reunion (R) **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **9.45** (FM) Fatwa. How The Satanic Verses affair affected freedom of speech. (10/10) (R) **10.0** Woman's Hour **10.45** (LW) TMS: England v South Africa – Third Test Day Two **11.0** (FM) The Spark. Helen Lewis meets law professor Danielle Citron, author of The Fight for Privacy. (4/4) **11.30** (FM) Relativity. Ian's visit to the doctor leads to uncertainty about his health. (2/6) **12.0** (FM) News **12.01** (LW) Shipping Forecast **12.04** (LW) TMS **12.04** (FM) AntiSocial (12/12) **12.57** (FM) Weather **1.0** (FM) The World at One **1.45** (FM) Bhopal. A leak of methyl isocyanate escapes from the Bhopal Union Carbide chemical plant. (5/5) **2.0** (FM) The Archers (R) **2.15** (FM) Exemplar. Thriller, by Ben and Max Ringham, with Dan Rebellato. (4/5) **2.45** (FM) Living With the Gods (R) **3.0** (FM) Gardeners' Question Time **3.45** (FM) New Frequencies (3/3) **4.0** (FM) Last Word **4.30** (FM) More Or Less (R) **5.0** (FM) PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping Forecast **5.57** (LW) TMS **5.57** (FM) Weather **6.0** (FM) News **6.30** (FM) The News Quiz. New series. **7.0** The Archers **7.15** Screenshot. Film magazine with Ellen E Jones and Mark Kermode. (6/9) **8.0** Any Questions? **8.50** A Point of View **9.0** Bhopal Omnibus **10.0** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Maid (5/10) **11.0** Great Lives (R) **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.0** News **12.30** Fatwa (R) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.0** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Witness (R)

Radio 4 Extra

6.0am Some Mother's Son (5/6) **6.30** An Ice Cream War (5/5) **7.0** The Golden Age (3/3) **7.30** Ed Reardon's Week (3/6) **8.0** It Sticks Out Half a Mile (10/14) **8.30** Thirty Minutes Worth **9.0** Say the Word (1/6) **9.30** The Circle (3/6) **10.0** The Last of the Mohicans (2/2) **11.0** Podcast Radio Hour **12.0** It Sticks Out Half a Mile (10/14) **12.30** Thirty Minutes Worth **1.0** Some Mother's Son (5/6) **1.30** An Ice Cream War (5/5) **2.0** The History of Brazil Is Round (5/5) **2.15** Betsy and Napoleon (5/5) **2.30** The Invisible College (1/3) **3.0** The Last of the Mohicans (2/2) **4.0** Say the Word (1/6) **4.30** The Circle (3/6) **5.0** The Golden Age (3/3) **5.30** Ed Reardon's Week (3/6)

Quick crossword no 16,331



Across

1 Number two (6)
4 Overbearing confidence (6)
9 One-piece over-the-shoulders swimsuit for chaps (7)
10 Adjust or manipulate (facts or figures) (5)
11 Tilt (5)
12 Device displaying words to be read out (7)
13 By great luck (anag) - one way to stop an opponent getting any further? (5,6)
18 Bolster (anag) (7)
20 Disease of infants and young children that makes breathing difficult (5)
22 Interest that is suddenly all the rage (5)
23 Undertaken without payment for the public good (3,4)
24 Country where both Celsius and Nobel were born (6)
25 Wide of the target (6)

Down

1 Heavy silk or linen fabric with a pattern woven into it (6)
2 Bamboo-eating bear from China (5)
3 Washing machine with two drums (4-3)
5 Below the standards required for the purpose (5)
6 Drastic (7)
7 Suddenly become very angry (3,3)
8 Person, like Ebenezer Scrooge, with no time for humankind - North Sea imp (anag) (11)
14 Anger caused by being offended (7)
15 Giant with a single eye in the middle of the forehead (7)
16 Loose trousers (6)
17 Strange and frightening (informal) (6)
19 Melody with variations (5)
21 Our do (anag) (5)

Stuck? For help call 0906 200 83 83. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call 0330 333 6946 for customer service (charged at standard rate).To buy puzzle books, visit guardianbookshop.com or call 0330 333 6846.

Garry Trudeau

Doonesbury



Sudoku no 5,779

Hard. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9.

				6				
	2		4					7
1				7	2		6	
4	6						3	8
		2			3	9		
5	7						4	6
3				9	5		8	
	8		2					9
				8				

Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of 2 squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.

					4
			5		5
	1				
	2		3		
3					

Wordsearch

Can you find 15 French cities in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.

C	D	L	I	M	O	G	E	S
H	G	B	D	N	E	U	O	R
Y	R	P	N	I	J	T	L	T
S	E	E	A	O	J	I	P	E
N	N	C	A	R	L	O	S	N
A	O	I	C	L	I	U	N	A
E	B	N	E	T	O	S	O	N
L	L	D	I	H	A	T	Y	T
R	E	E	L	H	A	G	L	E
O	R	U	R	E	N	N	E	S
S	M	S	N	A	M	E	L	T

Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku no 5,778

4	7	6	2	8	5	9	3	1
3	1	8	9	6	4	2	7	5
5	2	9	1	7	3	4	8	6
8	6	1	3	2	7	5	4	9
2	3	5	4	9	1	8	6	7
9	4	7	6	5	8	3	1	2
1	5	4	7	3	9	6	2	8
6	8	3	5	1	2	7	9	4
7	9	2	8	4	6	1	5	3

Suguru

5	1	3	2	4	1
3	2	4	1	3	2
1	5	3	2	5	4
4	2	1	4	1	3
1	3	5	3	5	2
4	2	1	2	1	3

Wordsearch



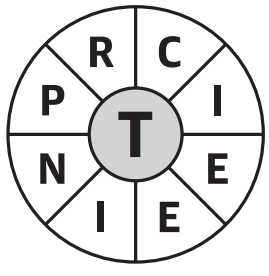
Solution no 16,330

■	P	U	R	S	E	D	■	P	I	P	I	T
■	O	■	E	■	D	■	■	O	■	R	■	E
B	U	M	B	A	G	■	A	S	S	I	S	T
■	R	■	E	■	B	■	■	E	■	V	■	C
D	I	S	C	■	A	P	P	R	O	A	C	H
■	N	■	C	■	S	■	R	■	■	T	■	Y
■	G	I	A	N	T	K	I	L	L	E	R	■
O	■	L	■	■	O	■	N	■	O	■	E	■
V	O	L	C	A	N	I	C	■	G	A	S	P
E	■	I	■	R	■	■	E	■	I	■	U	■
R	E	C	E	S	S	■	■	T	A	C	K	L	E
D	■	I	■	O	■	■	O	■	A	■	T	■
O	F	T	E	N	■	U	N	C	L	E	S	■

Word wheel
ALTIMETER

Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-41. Good-35. Average-25.



Pet corner



In the Harry Potter series, Dumbledore's younger brother was prosecuted for 'practising inappropriate charms' on what farmyard animal? *

a. A lamb
b. A rooster
c. A goat
d. A horse
Answer top right

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The Guardian Friday 9 September 2022

Journal

The death of Queen Elizabeth II

Exercising power artfully, she was the ultimate matriarch

Stop all the clocks. Cut off the telephone. For once, the opening lines of WH Auden's poem Funeral Blues seem to fit the moment. Like it or not, much of public life will grind to a halt in the black-tied days of mourning ahead,

Gaby Hinsliff



as broadcasters suspend their schedules and a state funeral is prepared.

However much it may have been gently anticipated, the death of the longest-reigning monarch in British history remains a significant and oddly unsettling moment in the life of a nation. The Queen has been a constant, steadying presence in the background of millions of lives for 70 years, and a reassuring voice in times of national crisis. But it is the depth of knowledge accumulated over decades that may perhaps be fully appreciated only now it is gone. That benign, grandmotherly manner, in recent years, belied a keen and occasionally caustic intelligence.

Hers was a form of female power exercised so artfully as to be almost invisible. The sweeping nature of the constitutional powers she has held over the years – to dissolve parliament, or withhold consent from legislation – were tolerated within a modern democracy precisely because they were sparingly used. She helped to shape and guide governments through her weekly audiences with a succession of 14 prime ministers, each taking their turn at stepping gingerly past the sleeping corgis lining the way to her study.

But her political leanings went with her to the grave. The closest she perhaps ever strayed to expressing an opinion publicly was during the 2014 Scottish independence referendum campaign, when she told well-wishers outside a church service that Scots should think very carefully about their vote. But even then, the palace was furious when David Cameron was overheard revealing that she had "purred down the line" when told that Scotland had voted to stay.

The Queen pulled off the rare trick for a woman of exercising profound influence without inciting a backlash, in part because the scope of that influence remained so shrouded in mystery. She did not so much normalise the idea of a woman in charge as make the nation largely forget that that was what she was, while retaining the ability in person to freeze grown men with a look. As Tony Blair noted in his autobiography, describing a G8 summit dinner of world leaders where some were evidently fooled by the relaxed atmosphere, "You don't get matey with the Queen. Occasionally she can be matey with you, but don't try to reciprocate, or you get The Look."

The actor Olivia Colman, who played Elizabeth II in the Netflix series The Crown, once called her the "ultimate feminist". But one suspects the Queen would never have claimed such a thing for herself, even if it is her face on

Exercising power artfully, she was the ultimate matriarch

Gaby Hinsliff

← *Continued from front*

all the money. There is more to feminism than being a woman who exercises power, and while she approved changes to the law that will prevent future monarchs' firstborn daughters being leapfrogged by their younger brothers in the line of succession, she did not obviously strive to leave a legacy for women.

When she chose to make a point of her gender – as she rather fabulously did in 1998, electing to chauffeur the visiting Saudi crown prince around the Balmoral estate personally at a time when Saudi women were not allowed to drive – the gesture of female solidarity was all the more striking for being so rare.

For the most part, she treated feminism as a political issue on which she remained neutral, while granting her daughter-in-law Camilla intriguing licence in recent years to speak out on issues such as domestic abuse or the normalisation of sexual violence against women. But if she was no feminist icon, she became perhaps the ultimate matriarch, a word denoting not merely a position within the family but a very specific life stage.

Matriarchal power is the kind exercised by older women who have managed to become valued for their wisdom and experience, not overlooked once their youth fades; who have arguably earned the right to please themselves, yet choose to remain a source of comfort and counsel to younger generations. The true matriarch is formidable, yet mature enough to have learned to put petty vanity aside. The monarch's role as defined by the Victorian constitutional expert Walter Bagehot – to encourage and to warn her government, while having the grace not to enforce her views – could have been written for a matriarch. But if the Queen's power lay in what her daughter, Princess Anne, once called her pragmatism, the new king may prove rather less inscrutable.

Perhaps that represents a movement with the times. The Queen's emotionally contained manner resonated deeply with older generations, but younger ones increasingly see the suppression of feelings as unhealthy. Her apparent reluctance to emote publicly over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales marked one of the few times the monarch seemed out of step with her country, while the memory of her grandsons walking publicly behind their mother's coffin still reverberates uneasily down the years.

The younger of them, Prince Harry, would later renounce a conventional royal life, moving to California in 2020 with his family. When he talked earnestly of wanting to "break the cycle" as a father, some heard a veiled repudiation of the way in which generations of royals were raised, being cared for by nannies and then dispatched to boarding school. In his biography of Prince Charles, Jonathan Dimbleby described the Queen as a "not indifferent so much as detached" mother. But if she could sometimes seem distant to her children when they were small, she may have felt she had little choice.

Princess Elizabeth was only 25, and her children Charles and Anne three and one respectively, when her father's death in 1952 catapulted her into the all-consuming role for which she had been groomed since childhood. Any private maternal regret over those early years of long overseas trips perhaps expressed itself in her determination to let Prince William enjoy time with his young children before assuming the working load of a future heir, and in her evident delight in her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Queen had seemed visibly more frail of late, particularly after the death of her beloved Duke of Edinburgh, yet the sense that time was running out if anything intensified her moral authority. Advised by doctors to rest rather than attend the Cop26 climate conference in 2021, there was a quiet urgency to the video message she sent in her place. "We none of us live for ever," she said, a photograph of her late husband beside her. "But we are doing this not for ourselves, but for our children and our children's children." Stop the clocks indeed.

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'Comment is free... but facts are sacred' CP Scott

Elizabeth II

Britain will never see another monarch like the Queen again

News of Queen Elizabeth's death was not wholly unexpected. She lived to the great age of 96. After enjoying markedly good health for so long, the oldest monarch in British history had recently appeared more fragile. She had understandably become a more private woman since the death of Prince Philip last year and had been less publicly visible, undertaking lighter duties. All of us knew that this moment was approaching.

It arrives nevertheless as a national shock, but also as a shared moment of reflection, and as the start of a new and unwritten chapter for the British monarchy and the country itself. The Queen's death brings personal loss for those close to her, and she had also been a constant presence in millions of lives. The longest monarchical reign in British history, stretching more than 70 years, is over. But the record book is less important than the widely shared sense of what has now slipped away, never to return.

The Queen's life spanned the entire history of modern Britain. She was born when Britain ruled a global empire of some 600 million people. She died when Britain was a medium-sized northern European country with an uncertain future. She came into the world before all British adults had the vote. At 10, she witnessed the abdication of her uncle that made her heir to the throne. At 14, she lived through the existential threat to the nation that followed the fall of France. As monarch, her first prime minister was Winston Churchill, who had participated in a cavalry charge at Omdurman in 1898, yet she had already been on the throne for 23 years before the current prime minister, her 15th, was even born.

She was crowned Queen in the first televised coronation in 1953. In the early years of her reign there was heady talk of Britain entering a new Elizabethan age. That never quite happened, and in retrospect the idea can be seen as a characteristic post-imperial conceit. She adapted, cautiously and pragmatically, to change. She managed to combine in her person the remote sacramental dimension of the British monarchy with a realistic acceptance that her standing rested on more secular foundations. In this, she provided an undeniable source of stability as the country underwent epochal changes at home and in the world during her lifetime.

Pivotal role

The consequence of this generally deft approach is that her long reign was only rarely marked by anything that she herself did in the public sphere. There were exceptions. One was her visit to Ireland in 2011, which played a pivotal part in the historic reconciliations of that time. Another was the dispassionate care and affection, which often contrasted with the indifference of some politicians, that she displayed towards the nations of the United Kingdom, embodied in particular in her love of Scotland.

Even more long-lasting was her important formal part in the retreat from empire. This had begun under her father, when India became free in 1947. But from 1957 on, when Ghana became independent, many of the "possessions" that the Queen had sworn to govern in her coronation oath became self-governing instead, while mostly remaining within the Commonwealth. The post-imperial grouping mattered to the Queen and how it will survive her death is unclear.

Hers was a reign marked far more by private milestones and, later, by private traumas. There were many notable family events. They included the births of her four children, their marriages, the investiture of her heir, Charles, as the Prince of Wales in 1969, the deaths of her uncle the Duke of Windsor in 1972 and her mother aged 101 in 2002, as well as her own jubilees: silver in 1977, golden in 2002, diamond in 2012 and sapphire in 2017 (the first by any British monarch). She died just months after her unprecedented platinum jubilee. In 1969, the Queen allowed the BBC to make a documentary about her family life. Yet when the family's problems mounted there would be no question of a follow-up. In its absence, television turned instead to fanciful dramas, notably The Crown (from which the late queen emerged very well). Nevertheless, from the 1990s onwards there was increasing public questioning of the monarchy, its cost and its place within British life.

These challenges started in the 1950s, notably over Princess Margaret's wish to marry a divorcee. But they spiralled in the 1980s and 1990s with the divorces of three of the Queen's children and with the "annus horribilis" of 1992, and reached a climax after the death of Princess Diana in 1997, when there was much talk of the monarchy being irrevocably out of touch and a fresh and rare surge of republican advocacy. The royals steadied themselves in the early 21st century before fresh challenges emerged in the shape of the tabloid treatment of Prince Harry's marriage to Meghan Markle and in Prince Andrew's association with the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Future monarchy

Elizabeth II leaves a space behind that is unlikely to be filled. The monarchy of the future will not be the same. Much careful thought, in which parliament has a need to be properly consulted and a right to give its final approval, must be given both to reform of the royal finances and the civil list. Most immediately, the coronation – a religious ceremony that is unique among the European monarchies – must be debated.

King Charles III comes to the throne at the age of 73, and is both the first university graduate and the first divorcee to reign in modern times. His character and his foibles are well-known. He may prove a more transitional figure than seemed likely if he had succeeded to the throne at an earlier age. As the holder of what is now essentially a ceremonial and formal headship of state, he would be wise, at this stage of his life and with the country so fragile in so many other ways, not to see himself as a reforming or "useful" king. Likewise, the post-Diana preoccupation in some quarters about whether Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, should become queen now seems more ephemeral and contrived. Let it be.

The monarchy, built on a system of hereditary privilege, is an anachronism in the modern age. However, the day of the Queen's passing is not the right one for contentious reflection on the continuing place, if any, of the monarchy. That will, and should, come soon. Let us for now acknowledge amid the national shock, first, that the late Queen did the job for so long with enormous dedication and deserved the national respect and affection that she is receiving in death. And, second, let us be sensible enough, as a changed and changing nation, to recognise that the monarchy will and must change too. These will be days of solemnity. But it will soon be the right time to debate these issues seriously, with nothing ruled out, and if possible without the mesmerised self-delusion that has so often surrounded the subject.



A dynastic moment that is going to test a divided Britain

Martin Kettle



Queen Elizabeth at her platinum jubilee celebrations in June

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS JACKSON/ AFP/GETTY

The death of a monarch is an entirely foreseeable event, the solemn formalities hardwired into the rituals of dynastic succession. But it is also an event that is difficult, partly for the simple reason of good manners, to anticipate with any accuracy at any particular time.

With the death at Balmoral of Queen Elizabeth II, a prepared but nevertheless shocked nation finds itself at such a moment, and it is important that our troubled politics and our wounded civil society face up to it as calmly and sensibly as possible, because this event will resonate politically and constitutionally for years to come.

Elizabeth was on the throne for so many years that, through no fault of her own, she made this process difficult. She reigned longer than any other monarch in British history, and by a considerable margin. She is the only one to have reigned for more than 70 years, a span that is unlikely to be repeated in the foreseeable future. Until yesterday, she was the only monarch that the vast majority of us had ever known – you have to be at least 75 to have had any clear memory of George VI's reign. This is a big, big event for Britain.

She presided over a system of doing monarchy that in some ways felt timeless, but which was in fact adaptive and distinctive. Her staying power and her skill at keeping her distance have bequeathed a model of monarchy that will not be easy for Charles III to replicate, especially if, as is distinctly possible, he fails to earn the breadth of respect that Elizabeth enjoyed.

The ominous signs came quickly yesterday. It is unusual for Buckingham Palace, normally so tight-lipped and uncommunicative on such matters, to volunteer the kind of frank statement on the monarch's health problems that it put out at lunchtime. It is even more unusual for the scattered and sometimes warring members of the royal family to descend en masse to the monarch's bedside at Balmoral.

This is the moment, nevertheless, for which the new monarch has long prepared, and it will be marked by change at least as much as hallowed continuity. But it is a process of change in which the many institutions of British society, not just the palace, are entitled to have their say.

> **Outside the palace walls, a collective taboo has evolved when it comes to discussing British life without Queen Elizabeth**

Even monarchy evolves, albeit slowly. It evolved under Elizabeth, as it had evolved under George VI. It will certainly evolve further under Charles, who is determined to slim down the numbers of working royals and who is also certain to find himself ceasing to be head of state of many Commonwealth countries. Yet, outside the palace walls, a collective taboo seems to have evolved when it comes to discussing the future of British life without Elizabeth.

There was an egregious but revealing example of this habit as recently as January. During the Partygate furore, Keir Starmer stood up in the Commons and drew a contrast between the lax attention to Covid rules in Boris Johnson's Downing Street and the punctilious and poignant observance of those rules by the widowed Queen at the funeral of Prince Philip during the pandemic in 2021.

It was a contrast that millions had grasped for themselves, but it drew an immediate reprimand from the Commons Speaker, Lindsay Hoyle, who told Starmer: "We normally would not, and quite rightly, mention the royal family. We do not get into discussions on the royal family."

This is an infantile stance for a senior parliamentarian. Parliament may not be supposed to get into discussions on the royal family, but everyone else in the country does. So, of course, do the press, which knows that the royals – whether in the form of the exemplary Cambridges, the troubled Sussexes, the disgraced Andrew or the continuing allure of Diana – sell. It passes belief that parliament should have such a pointless self-denying ordinance on the system of constitutional monarchy on which its own supremacy rests.

The idea that Britain's way of doing a monarchy is the only possible model is nonsense. Ours is the only European monarchy that is also the head of an established church. Partly for that reason, ours is the only one that has an elaborate coronation to mark a new reign. If Liz Truss had been a Swedish political leader, she would have travelled to see the speaker of the Riksdag this week to be appointed as prime minister, not the monarch. Sweden's king has no role in summoning or dissolving parliament either, and he does not give royal assent to legislation.

These are among the many terms and conditions of constitutional monarchy that a grown-up country might reasonably discuss, particularly at the end of a long reign such as Elizabeth's. The list would certainly include the many forms of royal prerogative powers that are exercised by Britain's prime minister, but which the Johnson era helped to make controversial.

Do not underestimate the upheaval in British life that this dynastic moment will trigger. Elizabeth II spent 70 years as a low-key but extremely effective unifying force in a nation that is visibly pulling itself apart. Her passing will remove that force, which her heirs cannot assume they will be able to replicate. In its way, this succession will be one of the biggest tests to face modern Britain. Politics needs to be involved.



This is a time of both public and personal grief

Polly Toynbee



The grief is genuine. The admiration for the woman who has been an emblem of a nation for so many decades is deeply sincere. There will be appreciation for the great care she took in such a fractious age not to take a side, express a view or add to the rifts that sharply divide the country. Every nation needs a figurehead; and, however perverse the sheer randomness of being born into that role, she embodied it with remarkable skill and dignity.

How fitting that she should die just after performing her final and most important constitutional role, appointing a prime minister (her 15th). How glad many will be that she lived to see the last hurrah of her platinum jubilee. There's no tragedy in the death of 96-year-old who kept going to the very last. Isn't that the way we all wish to go?

We never knew her, hidden as she was behind that distant facade of royalty. But everyone could imagine her as they chose. So many have measured their families, births, marriages and deaths, the growing up of their children, the passing of their grandmothers, against those royal events. So many wondered how she navigated her troublesome children, with their many divorces and scandals. Some families saw their own soap operas reflected back at them.

The grief people feel will be for all those losses and changes in their own families over the years. As a young child, my mother saw the Queen held up as a baby at Windsor for all to see. I dimly remember standing in a park in the cold, foggy early morning, waiting for her father's funeral.

I first watched TV at a friend's house for the coronation. We were nearly crushed in Hyde Park with my children watching fireworks on the evening before Charles and Diana's wedding in 1981. Their comings and goings echo through our own lives, royalist or not.

There will be grief, too, for the vanishing of an era – or many eras, one after another, as she was on the throne for so long. Time passing makes us melancholy: we grieve for ourselves, too. The hazy notion of an Elizabethan age marks out our personal and national histories.

For most people, she was the last link with the second world war, with those pictures of her in uniform. Her reprise of "We will meet again" in her Covid broadcast was a touching elegy for those more communally minded, wartime days. Her reign saw the end of empire, those pink slabs of the world in my old geography book, with the Commonwealth – that curious remnant she tenaciously clung to – now all that's left.

Now we will see public mourning on an epic scale, sonorous worship of the mystique of monarchy from the BBC. Cameras will seek out in the crowds the most profuse weepers. But the true mood, I suspect, is a more personal sense of family memories and the passing of private as well as public histories.

Reigns are milestones in our lives: Shakespeare had ordinary folk marking their own memories as being in the time of this or that king. Everyone has their own patriotism, their own way of expressing their love of home, their own reasons to revel in a thousand aspects of this country. Queen Elizabeth II, because she spanned as much time as most people can remember, laid claim to a sense of country that may not be matched in future.

She did everything she had to do. The most important thing of all to her was to pass on the crown to the next three kings lined up into the far future. She successfully steered her wayward family "firm" skilfully through 70 years of change and tumult. Now, with a "Vivat rex!", there has been not a split second after her last breath for anyone to consider. That is how she planned it, why she never abdicated to retire in old age.

The magic of majesty is in its divine destiny. Let in choice, and all is lost. She reigned so well that there has never been a time when the people, if asked, would have chosen anyone but her. "An impossible act to follow," opines one royal author to BBC News. I'm sure he didn't mean it that way, but he could be right.

Letters

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Country diary

Wyming Brook, South Yorkshire

The presence of a new official-looking sign in a treasured place is always unnerving. At the top of Wyming Brook it was doubly so. I have a disproportionate affection for this wooded gorge, affection born from not just from my own exploration as a teenager, but also from bringing our kids here when they were little more than toddlers.

The path beside the brook is a jumble of often-slippery boulders and tree roots twisting steeply downhill towards the Rivelin Valley below. Towering conifers dominate both sides of the stream: red cedar, eastern hemlock, Douglas fir, red pine and sitka. The kids would teeter along, pausing every so often to crane their necks upwards, glorying in this small slice of the Rockies on the western fringes of Sheffield.

Reading the new sign, my heart sank a little. A new scourge, the sign announced, had arrived in Wyming Brook. The pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* arrived in Britain 20 years ago, most likely from east Asia. It's an oomycete, fungus-like but more accurately classified as a stramenopile, like many algae. Spores spread on wind-blown rain, infecting leaves and then blocking the tree's ability to transport water. I have seen ramorum blight larch forests in Wales; now here it was in my backyard. Wyming Brook's larches would have to come out, and Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, which manages the site, was warning of a "drastic effect on the landscape".

Picking my way down the familiar path, I stared up at the looming trees. A family passed the other way, a boy and girl looking wide-eyed at the mossy crags, just as mine had done. A sweet chestnut had fallen recently, the section of trunk blocking the path cut away. I ran my hand across a section where the bark had stripped away, revealing corrugations in the trunk. Chestnut is also vulnerable to ramorum, and they will have to go too. Looking around, I could see native species struggling for light: black alder, oak and rowan. Replacements are waiting in the wings. But this fracturing of memory is never easy.
Ed Douglas

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The link between mental health and social issues

Like Dr Sanah Ahsan (We've been sold a lie about mental health, 8 September), I too work as a clinical psychologist and I see every day the impact of inequality, social injustice and abuse of power on individuals' mental health (and by association, the mental health of their children, partners, colleagues and acquaintances).

For too long, the dominant narrative locates problems in individuals, medicalises them and leaves people feeling helpless, ill and stigmatised. It is as though they are defective, and not positive and resilient enough. This lie affects people from all walks of life, but most severely those who are already disfranchised through poverty and inequality.

A huge privilege of my job is hearing people's rich life stories. Depression, anxiety and psychosis all make sense when you take time to understand the context in which they arose. There is nothing pathological about the anxiety and mistrust felt by a young mother who is about to be made homeless. Or depression and shame in a gay man who has endured discrimination for decades. As the British psychiatrist RD Laing reportedly once said: "Insanity [is] a perfectly rational adjustment to an insane world."

Let's stop talking about the mental health crisis and start talking about the corrupt and cruel politics in the UK right now. Let's stop despairing, and see hope in the huge numbers of people in distress. Let's get angry with the status quo and seek to change it.
Abbie Pearce
Bristol

● Dr Sanah Ahsan's article is an excellent example of how discourse is used to locate problems in individuals rather than systems. One example is described by Lisa Marin Wexler in work with the Iñupiat community in Alaska. Her aim is to reduce the incidence of young male suicide in the community. Her successful "treatment" is not more therapy, but community-based learning circles to challenge the presentation of the suicide statistics as examples of community dysfunction that had led to despondency and self-blame.

Wexler changed the conversation by fostering community action, resilience and resistance, and reconceptualising colonisation as something that continues in many forms today, so that the Iñupiat can withstand and resist oppressive structures. In this way, local community practices aimed at decolonisation and prevention have become an effective youth suicide prevention strategy.

The lesson is that the more we can help people understand oppression, the more they connect and seek to act together to oppose it, and the more likely they will improve their resilience.
Anna Wright
Woking, Surrey

● I've recently qualified as a counsellor and have been volunteering at a charity. I also work full-time in an office for a large bank. Dr Sanah Ahsan's article has resonated for a number of reasons. First, many clients attend therapy with issues that require a change in circumstances to really fix them. No amount of therapy can make up for not being watered, to use Dr Ahsan's analogy.

Second, in the bank the emphasis is always on resilience, rather than looking at why employees feel they are not able to cope. Employees are told to go to the employee assistance programme when they are struggling with their mental health, but the working environment is not considered or reviewed. This suggests that while mental health is talked about more, stigma remains, and the desire for an easy fix is a major barrier to improvement.
Name and address supplied

● I work with people who self-harm and often want to die. I strongly identify with Dr Sanah Ahsan's article around how we label individuals as ill or flawed rather than seeing an adaptation to extreme environmental pressures. Everyone I work with has experienced traumatic neglect, abandonment and abuse from those who should have protected them. We tell the survivors of a lifetime of adversity that their personalities are disordered.

We provide help that doesn't match National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines, then blame them further when they fail to benefit. In his book Cracked: Why Psychiatry Is Doing More Harm Than Good, James Davies writes of how institutions adapt to serve the ideology of the time rather than the citizens of the country. As the gap between rich and poor widens, as the suicide rate for children grows, it is more convenient to blame an underclass that cannot cope rather than a society that is killing us.
Name and address supplied

● In my 30-year experience with adults and children suffering mental health problems, I've seen psychiatrists' diagnostic manuals mushroom in size and complexity. They keep adding more labels for people's conditions alongside research identifying chemical imbalances in the brain. The problem is one of cause and effect. Are chemical imbalances an effect of mental illness or a cause?

New research is contesting the chemical origin of mental illness. Dr Sanah Ahsan highlights the link between poverty and mental illness, underlining research revealing the disproportionate numbers in the poorest households who suffer. As the cost of living crisis gets worse, unemployment rises, and cuts to mental health services go deeper, there will soon be a mental health epidemic hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. The last thing we need is a government ideologically set against state intervention to help them.
Steven Walker
Former head of child and adolescent mental health, Anglia Ruskin University

Inspiring lessons from one headteacher

I found this long read (How to fix a school, 6 September) both inspiring and depressing. Inspiring, because of the leadership and pedagogical knowledge and understanding of Sue Vermes and her team - the best of committed and trained professionals. Depressing because of what it tells us about the continuing impact of austerity and not-to-be-contested ideological convictions of governments over the past 12 years, here exemplified by the imposition of phonics. The education story told here is replicated across the spectrum of public sector services. The role of inequality is mentioned, the depressing aspects being its continued presence in the UK and the lack of political acknowledgement - perhaps denial - of its existence and influence.

Much government comment is about what, not why. It's probably too much to expect that those who voted for the new government and prime minister could be asked to read this piece.
Blaine Stothard
London

● As a retired headteacher, how I empathised with headteacher Sue Vermes in her striving to give the children of Rose Hill primary a fair go at things. Not for the first time did I shed tears of anger and frustration at the machinations of a government that cares little about the wellbeing or education of our children. Bring on your campaign, Sue.
Barbara France
Arnside, Cumbria

Corrections and clarifications

● In referring to Liz Truss's potential plans for an energy price freeze as being "stolen straight from Labour", an opinion piece overlooked a similar proposal from the Liberal Democrats. Also, Ben Zaranko of the Institute for Fiscal Studies was reported as saying that "Europe's highest taxing countries have the strongest growth". In fact, Zaranko noted that some of these countries had experienced stronger growth than the UK (No charisma, no plan: Labour has nothing to fear from Truss, 7 September, Journal, p1).

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Tories change, but ideas stay the same

You argue that it would be churlish not to credit advances in diverse representation in the Tory cabinet (Editorial, 8 September). But is there any real advance if the views being espoused by its new members are still remarkably similar to the white men they have replaced, and in some cases actually denying the experience of other people of colour?
Judy Stober
Bruton, Somerset

● Sorry, Adrian Chiles, but British food is definitely the worst in Europe (After three weeks travelling in Europe, I'm calling it - British food is the best, 8 September). Having a large variety of restaurants offering foreign cuisine is a completely different matter. What they are offering obviously has nothing to do with "British food".
Uwe Finke
Yangon, Myanmar

● A farewell piece about Bristol Zoo and not a mention of Johnny Morris and Animal Magic (Bristol's final roar: After 186 years, zoo closes its gates, 3 September)? This wonderful TV series, filmed at the zoo, gave a generation of children pleasure from 1962 to 1983.
Pete Lavender
Nottingham

● When I lived in South Yorkshire in the 1970s, my neighbours referred to an unmarried partner as a "lie-by", if that is useful for Alison Norris (Letters, 7 September)?
Liz Thompson
Oxford

● My (now) sister-in-law called me her "sister out-law" (Letters, 8 September), which I graduated to after being known as "Colin's er ... um".
Gillian Bassett
Great Barford, Bedfordshire



Tony Hunt

Structural engineer whose innovative work included the biodomes at the Eden Project

If it had not been for Tony Hunt's formidable skills as a structural engineer, the story of British architecture over the past half-century, from the refined elegance of the steel-and-glass temple that is Norman Foster's Sainsbury Centre in Norwich to the huge biodomes of Nicholas Grimshaw's Eden Project in Cornwall, might have taken a very different course.

Hunt, who has died aged 90, built them both, as well as the structures that started the careers of Foster and Richard and Su Rogers. When Terry Farrell and Grimshaw were still partners, Hunt was the engineer for their first major building, a London housing co-op in a tower near Regent's Park.

In 1976 he worked on Michael and Patty Hopkins' own house in north London, a glass box in the tradition of Ray and Charles Eames. This was the group who initiated the high-tech movement that flourished in the 1980s, and it was Hunt who showed them how to make their ideas work.

He designed cast-steel components with the delicacy of jewellery for the curved roof of Grimshaw's Eurostar extension at Waterloo station, and shaped the delicate steel columns to support the undulating bamboo and glass canopy that crowns Richard Rogers' airport in Madrid.

He was close to the high-tech group, he enjoyed their parties and shared their passion for sailing, but he was never dogmatic about design. Foster said: "He never came to a design meeting with preconceptions."

Hunt worked in timber as well as steel. He designed the cast concrete of Neave Brown's Alexandra Road housing scheme for Camden council. He was the engineer for the sandstone-faced Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh designed by Gordon Benson and Alan Forsyth. He worked on Zaha Hadid's administration building for BMW's car factory in Dresden and with Amanda Levete and Jan Kaplický for their floating bridge at Canary Wharf, and the house they built for the restaurateur Jeremy King.

"With his boyish, rumpled charm, Hunt negotiated the delicate dance between architect and engineer

His job was to answer open-ended questions. How do you build the world's largest and most beautiful greenhouse? Or get a silicon-chip factory up and running in a year? Or design prefabricated housing for the British Antarctic Survey base, Halley Bay?

Hunt was born in Streatham, south London, the elder son of James Hunt, a solicitor's clerk, and Joan (nee Cassidy). He developed his fascination for how things worked as a schoolboy at Salesian college in Farnborough, Hampshire, designing, building and flying model aircraft. He left school at 15 and worked as an apprentice in a small engineering firm, studying for his professional qualifications at Westminster Technical College.

He moved to the office of Felix Samuely, the engineer for the needle-shaped Skylon landmark at the Festival of Britain. There he began his relationship with well-known architects working on Eero Saarinen's US embassy in Grosvenor Square. He stayed for seven years before he opened his own studio in London in 1962.



Hunt based the domes at the Eden Project in Cornwall on the geometry of soap bubbles. Below, Hunt in 2019

ALAMY; NORMAN FOSTER FOUNDATION

With his boyish, rumpled charm, Hunt negotiated the delicate dance between architect and engineer, to give them what they needed without challenging their leadership. He drew clear and unpretentious sketches to convey his ideas. The process had, on occasion, to be conducted at speed.

Hunt had worked out a design for a portal frame structure for the Sainsbury Centre that the contractor had already priced when he came in for a meeting with Foster one morning to be told that, on reflection, it was not the right way to go. Could he come up with something lighter?

For the Eden Project, he had to devise a structure that could cope with an undefined site plan; clay was still being extracted from the pit. The solution was an inflatable pillow system, inspired by the geometry of soap bubbles.

Hunt believed in ideas as much as calculations. He wrote: "Structural design is an art and a science. It's not based purely on mathematical solutions which concentrate on elemental calculations, while ignoring the overall concept. Structures are an integral part of the architecture. They're not designed in isolation."

Hunt had a way of being in the right place. He was there with Foster when Buckminster Fuller came to Britain to talk about designing an underground theatre at St Peter's College, Oxford. When Hugh Casson invited him to teach the rudiments of engineering at the Royal College of Art, one of his students was James Dyson. When Dyson was building his factory in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, he asked Hunt to recommend an architect – he suggested Wilkinson Eyre – and to engineer the structure.

Dyson credits Hunt with doing "more than anyone to turn me on to engineering and to make the connection between design, engineering, art and science. I could see structural engineering would come to dominate architecture – it felt pioneering. I could also see that this shift could be true of products, too, that their technology and engineering would become more important than industrial design casings."

In 1957 Hunt married Patricia Daniels; they divorced, remarried and divorced again in 1982. His marriage to Diana Collett, in 1985, ended in divorce in 2007. He is survived by his third wife, Helene Moore, whom he married in 2013, and by his son, Julian, and daughter, Polly, from his first marriage.

Deyan Sudjic

Anthony James Hunt, engineer, born 22 June 1932; died 16 August 2022

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Mo Ostin

Record label executive who nurtured the careers of Neil Young, James Taylor and Prince

It is usually the artists who are the household names in the music business, but there have been a handful of executives who became well known in their own right, such as Clive Davis at Columbia Records and Ahmet Ertegun at Atlantic. One of the greats was Mo Ostin, who was renowned as a champion of music and musicians. During his 30-year career with Warner Bros, Ostin, who has died aged 95, was instrumental in building the careers of many of the most highly regarded artists of his era.

After working for Norman Granz's jazz label Verve in the mid-1950s, Ostin was picked by Frank Sinatra to head his label Reprise. After that was bought by Warner Bros, Ostin helped bring the world the Kinks, Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, Fleetwood Mac, Madonna and Prince, while Paul Simon, Tom Petty and REM also flourished under his sympathetic regime.

In the mid-70s, Warner-Reprise had become the top label in the US, and the WEA grouping of which it was a part controlled almost a quarter of the US music market. Fleetwood Mac's 30m-selling album Rumours proved a high-water mark for the company.

Another prestigious signing was Neil Young, who inducted Ostin into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003. "Mo is just the greatest," said Young, "and he brought something to my life that made a big difference, and it was creative freedom."

In reply, Ostin outlined the key lesson he had learned: "This is a business of creativity and risk-taking and passion, and, in the struggle between art and commerce, the artist must prevail."

He was born in New York as Morris Ostrofsky, to Berta (nee Shaffer) and Abraham Ostrofsky, who had fled Russia to escape the Bolshevik revolution. When he was 13 he moved with his parents and brother, Gerald, to Los Angeles, where they ran a small fresh produce market.

Ostin attended Fairfax high school, where he headed the music society, and then went to UCLA to study economics. His introduction to the music business came via the family's neighbour Irving Granz, whose brother Norman ran the Clef Records jazz label. While still at university, Ostin travelled with Granz's Jazz at the Philharmonic concerts, selling programmes. He had graduated in economics, but then dropped out of UCLA's law school to become controller at Clef. The label was renamed Verve and was home to jazz artists including Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington and Charlie Parker.

In 1960 Ostin found himself being headhunted by Sinatra, who, having unsuccessfully tried to buy Verve, recruited him as general manager at his new label, Reprise. Sinatra aside, Reprise's roster was focused on Sinatra's Rat Pack pals and looked outdated, but broader horizons opened up when Reprise was bought by Warner Bros.

Ostin's ears were acutely attuned to the revolutionary upheavals that were transforming the music business, as he demonstrated by signing the Kinks in 1964. The band scored six Top 40 hits in the US by the end of 1965.

In 1967 he signed Jimi Hendrix, when the guitarist had barely been heard of outside Britain. Further far-sighted additions were Fleetwood Mac, Jethro Tull and the Grateful Dead.

Assisted by his head of A&R, Lenny Waronker, who assembled an impressive talent-spotting team that included Ted Templeman, Russ Titelman and Gary Katz (known for his production work on Steely Dan's albums), Ostin was able to develop a roster that included many distinctive and influential artists. Randy Newman, Mitchell and Taylor lined up alongside Bonnie Raitt, Van Dyke Parks, Little Feat and Van Morrison, while Young became almost an in-house talisman at Reprise, his aura attracting other gifted artists to the label.

> **Ostin's ears were acutely attuned to the upheavals in the music business**

By 1970, Ostin had become chairman and CEO of Warner-Reprise, a post he held until 1994. His magnetism ensured that artists kept beating a path to his door, with Van Halen, ZZ Top, the B-52s, George Benson, Petty, Simon, REM, Rickie Lee Jones, Rod Stewart and Dire Straits among them. A distribution deal with Sire Records brought Madonna, the Ramones and Talking Heads into the fold.

Ostin was especially proud of signing Prince in 1977, when the nascent superstar was 19. Ostin recalled how they heard a Prince demo tape "and we were absolutely blown away and wanted to sign him immediately. There was a lot of competition because other people knew about him … Because we valued artists, he signed with us."

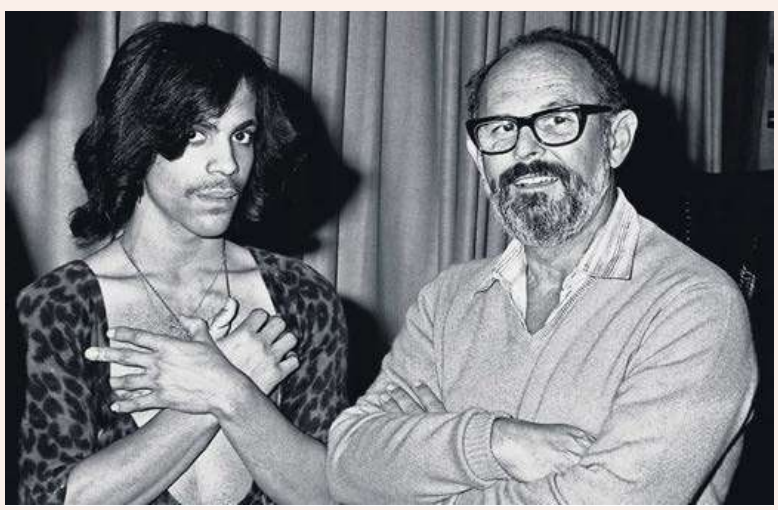
In 1994 the Ostin era at Warners began to draw to a close as he found himself in a power struggle with Robert Morgado, the chairman of what was now Warner Music Group. Ostin resigned, temporarily throwing Warners into chaos.

In 1995, Ostin, Waronker and Ostin's son Michael signed on as the new management team at DreamWorks SKG Records, part of the entertainment monolith created by David Geffen, Steven Spielberg and Jeffrey Katzenberg. However, despite signing Rufus Wainwright, George Michael and Nelly Furtado, the label failed to live up to its potential. After it was sold to Universal Music Group, Ostin retired from the industry in 2004. In 2006 he took a consulting role at Warner Bros Records, with the title of chairman emeritus.

Ostin's wife, Evelyn (nee Bardavid), whom he married in 1948, died in 2005. Two of their sons, Randy and Kenny, also predeceased him. Ostin is survived by Michael and Gerald.

Adam Sweeting

Mo Ostin (Morris Meyer Ostrofsky), record industry executive, born 27 March 1927; died 31 July 2022



Ostin in 1977 with Prince, who had just joined Warner-Reprise. Ostin said later the nascent superstar had signed with his label 'because we value artists'
GARY LEONARD/GETTY

Birthdays

Lord (Bill) Bradshaw, Liberal Democrat peer and transport management expert, 86; **Michael Bublé**, singer and actor, 47; **Hugh Grant**, actor, 62; **Rachel Hunter**, model, 53; **Natasha Kaplinsky**, newscaster, 50; **Peter Kyle**, Labour MP, shadow minister for Northern Ireland, 52; **Luka Modrić**, footballer, 37; **Graham Onions**, cricketer, 40; **Stuart Price**, musician and producer, 45; **Reuven Rivlin**, former president of Israel, 83; **Judith Rodin**, former president, Rockefeller Foundation, 78; **Adam Sandler**, actor and comedian, 56; **Julia Sawalha**, actor, 54; **Prof Sir Adrian Smith**, director of the Alan Turing Institute, president of the Royal Society, 76; **Dave Stewart**, musician and producer, 70; **Shirley Summerskill**, former Labour MP and minister, 91; **Chaim Topol**, actor and singer, 87; **Goran Višnjić**, actor, 50; **Prof David Williams**, astronomer, 85; **Michelle Williams**, actor, 42.



The actor Michelle Williams at Cannes film festival in May, where her film Showing Up was in contention for the Palme d'Or. She is 42 today

Announcements

Deaths

HALL, John Michael Bruce. 5 April 1934 to 29 August 2022. John Hall died at his home of 30 years in Valencia, Spain on Monday 29 August following a brief illness. John was born in Nottingham, attended Worcester College, Oxford, and after that settled in London where he had a long and successful career in advertising. John is survived by four children: Elizabeth, Nicholas, Christopher and Francesca.

HARRIES (nee SHUFFREY), Dr Anne. 1928 - 2022. GP, family planning and school Dr 1950s to 1990s in Bedford. Organiser for local Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons. Loved walking with her beloved husband Owain who died in 2011. Will be missed greatly by her children, Jane, Ceri, Judith and Glyn, and grandchildren. Anne died on 14/8/2022. Thanksgiving service, St Andrews Church, Bedford, 19/9/22 at 3.15pm.

HENNESSEY, Roger Anthony Shaun. Roger passed away suddenly at his home in Up Hatherley, Cheltenham on 20 August 2022 aged 84. Adored, dependable husband of his late wife Jennifer. Much loved and supportive father of Emma, Jasper and Justin. Loving and inspirational grandfather of Livia, Theo, Eva and Sidney. Survived by his former wife and mother of his children, Penelope. Author, teacher and school inspector, who inspired many through his photography, prose and poetry. Railway buff and H G Wells aficionado who was engaged in life and engaging company until the end.

For Announcements, Acknowledgments, Adoptions, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths, Engagements, Memorial Services and In Memoriam, email us at announcements@theguardian.com including your name, address and telephone number or phone 0203 353 2114.

Yesterday's solutions

Killer sudoku
Easy

8	5	2	6	4	9	7	3	1
6	3	9	7	1	5	2	8	4
7	1	4	3	8	2	6	9	5
5	6	1	8	2	7	3	4	9
4	7	8	9	3	6	5	1	2
9	2	3	4	5	1	8	6	7
2	9	6	1	7	8	4	5	3
3	8	7	5	9	4	1	2	6
1	4	5	2	6	3	9	7	8

Medium

8	3	4	1	9	7	6	5	2
2	5	9	6	4	8	7	3	1
6	7	1	2	3	5	8	9	4
4	8	2	9	7	6	5	1	3
9	6	3	5	1	2	4	7	8
5	1	7	4	8	3	2	6	9
3	2	6	8	5	9	1	4	7
1	9	5	7	2	4	3	8	6
7	4	8	3	6	1	9	2	5

Codeword

B	O	W	L	S	■	C	H	I	N	T	Z	■		
A	■	O	■	A	■	O	■	D	■	U	■	B		
S	C	O	F	F	E	R	■	L	A	R	G	E		
I	■	D	■	E	■	G	■	Y	■	B	■	V		
C	I	C	A	T	R	I	X	■	L	O	N	E		
■	■	U	■	Y	■	■	E	■	O	■	■	L		
L	O	T	S	■	H	A	N	D	B	A	L	L		
E	■	■	I	■	Y	■	O	■	E	■	■	E		
M	A	R	Z	I	P	A	N	■	S	C	U	D		
M	■	■	E	■	E	■	■	B	■	H	■	■		
I	N	K	S	■	S	Q	U	A	R	E	L	Y		
N	■	E	■	S	■	U	■	N	■	E	■	O		
G	E	N	R	E	■	I	N	J	U	R	E	D		
S	■	D	■	M	■	P	■	O	■	I	■	E		
■	T	O	X	I	N	S	■	S	P	O	O	L		

Cryptic crossword
Solution No. 28,857

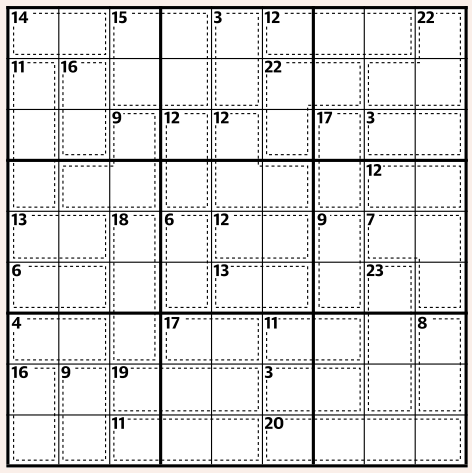
■	I	■	I	B	■	C	■	M	■	M	■	J		
C	O	L	O	N	I	S	E	■	O	M	E	G	A	S
■	W	■	T	■	D	■	N	■	N	■	L	■		
T	A	B	A	R	D	■	T	E	A	R	D	R	O	P
■	■	U	■	E	T	A	■	U	■	A	■	U		
B	E	D	P	A	N	■	V	A	R	I	C	O	S	E
O	■	I	■	■	O	■	A	■	I	■	I	■		
D	I	S	A	V	O	W	■	E	L	B	O	W	E	D
■	N	■	N	■	P	■	F	■	■	U	■	O		
A	T	H	O	M	E	T	O	■	U	N	S	E	N	T
■	H	■	T	■	N	■	C	W	M	■	■	W		
S	E	Q	U	O	I	A	S	■	L	A	T	E	E	N
■	R	■	N	■	N	■	L	■	A	■	U	■	U	
B	A	D	E	G	G	■	E	Q	U	A	T	I	O	N
■	W	■	R	■	S	■	S	■	T	■	U	■	I	

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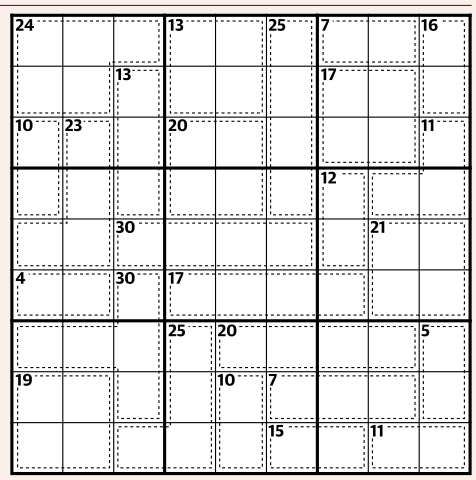
Killer sudoku

Easy

The normal rules of sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.



Medium



Codeword

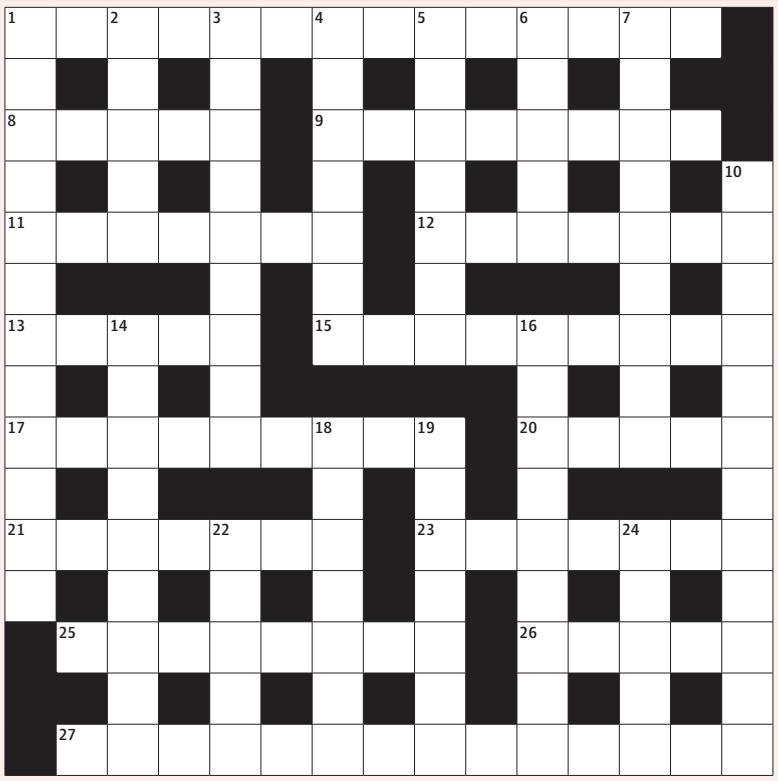
Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid, and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. The letters decoded should help you to identify other letters and words in the grid.

■	19	■	6	■	4	■	3	■	7	■	24	■
10	2	11	8	16	18	13	20	■	8	13	18	11
■	16	■	5	■	5	■	16	■	16	■	13	■
5	10	18	16	■	25	5	5	24	5	13	23	1
■	■	■	21	■	1	■	■	■	2	■	■	■
2	10	7	18	11	■	20	2	15	8	10	22	1
■	2	■	13	■	20	■	16	■	■	■	16	■
3	17	21	20	5	13	■	8 U	13	19	3	3	24
■	18	■	■	■	2	■	10	■	3	■	17	■
18	10	22	2	14	11	1	■	3	7	5	21	1
■	■	■	23	■	■	■	8	■	7	■	■	■
22	5	16	26	8	16 R	5	1	■	21	3	25	9
■	4	■	8	■	8	■	8	■	18	■	19	■
13	18	22	1	■	12	9	2	20	1	19	18	22
■	9	■	11	■	12	■	9	■	11	■	11	■

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q ~~R~~ S T ~~U~~ V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 U	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 R	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Guardian cryptic crossword No 28,858 set by Vlad



Across

1,15 Albert and his work (theoretical, not real) dealt with theory of relativity? (5,2,7,4,5)
8 I'm going to stop working in American university (5)
9 How food may be served with nothing spent from monthly allowance (2,6)
11 It's nice to be back on road with better car (7)
12 Cad turned on queen and popular old king (7)
13 Get up around noon for wash (5)
15 See 1
17 Natural being uncovered, mask questionable – it's explained here with illustrations (4,5)
20 Round container holds tablet and a lot of water (5)
21 Article on sport that's wrong about old Louis? (7)
23 Returning home is largely painful for composer (7)
25 Could be true – look, it was 12's language (8)
26 Magazine love story captivates daughter (5)
27 Early work might involve meeting with fellow in steak bar, possibly (5,9)

Down

1 Keir, in short, the ablest in Labour? Nonsense! (12)
2 Tree, one in forest shedding bark unusually (5)
3 Obviously cut down on workload but forced to come in (9)
4 [Don't move sheep back over river] (4,3)
5 Meal's off – drink? (4,3)
6 One spearing trout-like fish – it might be easy (5)
7 Quite surprised – Tottenham winger during season abroad showing good form (9)
10 On the way to collect dope and unwilling to reconsider (12)
14 Eco warrior originally arrested under nuclear dump (6,3)
16 Stripped bird in court where defendant stands (second time covered up) (9)
18 Team about to board Bill's vehicle (7)
19 Gunners upset by a lot of Celtic's rivals – fix! (7)
22 FA join? That's handy! (2,3)
24 I win – diagram has parts missing (5)